

Cambridge MUSIC Chronicle by Mike Petty



*Riverside  
Jazz Band  
at  
Y.M.C.A  
March 1960*

231.24

*c.69 : music with separate sequence on proposals for a Concert Hall*

Musical history of East Anglia – Charles Cudworth lecture – 62 07 10

headlines

1888 01 20

Excelsior Christy Minstrels concert at Cambridge Guildhall [2.22]

1888 05 25

Mr Wood's Banjo Team concert – name artistes [2.23]

1888 11 30

Hague Ingram's 133<sup>rd</sup> annual concert of classical music [2.24]

1889 03 15

X.L.C.R. Minstrels concert [2.25]

X.L.C.R. Minstrels remembered – 43 01 16, 43 01 23 [1.3]

1889 11 15

Lecture on the phonograph - a novelty in Cambridge 1889 11 15 [2.26]

**1890**

Memories of Penny Popular Concerts by old Higher Grade Club at end of 19<sup>th</sup> century, packed houses, Magpie Concert Party, Perl Lambert dancing girls – 64 06 15 [1.7]

1890

University penny pops concerts [1.4]

1893 03 01

Cambridge Town Orchestra first public performance [1.6]

1893

Tchaikovsky & Saint Saens at jubilee celebrations of University Department of Education Musical society [9.9]

1895

Arcade closed due to lack of support, Marie Lloyd concert cancelled (when the new Corn Exchange opened the old was used as a shopping centre until 1884. For a while it stood empty till Ernie Hayward, enterprising local concert promoter, opened it as a variety music hall which was successful for a while. Its closure was caused by the long frost December 1894 to March 1895 which brought about night skating by electricity a great novelty which emptied the Arcade) [1.16]

1899 01 17

A very pleasant evening may be spent at the Red Cow Inn Concert Hall, Cambridge. The best of local talent is requisitioned and the concert hall promises to have a run of uninterrupted success, judging by the support which has already been given to the new venture. Its American bowling saloon is now also open 1899 01 17

1899 04 02 c

The Red Cow Inn concert hall, Guildhall Street, Cambridge. Special engagement for six nights of Miss Sadie St John, comedienne and dancer; Miss Gracie White, serio and dancer and Mr G. Kent, comedian and mimic. American bowling saloon now open. – Advert

## 1900

1900 01 16

A campanological, vocal and instrumental entertainment was given by the Walford Family at the Cambridge Guildhall. One instrument of their invention is the Hydroaktulopsychichamonica, or aqueous musical glasses, on which selections were very prettily played 00 01 16

1900 06 19

A very attractive programme is presented at the popular hall in Auckland Road, Cambridge, this week. One of the most enjoyable items is kept to the last – Edison's Concertphone. This machine is Edison's own invention and is vastly superior to the phonograph. It is manipulated by Mr Oliver. Most of the records were taken by Mr Oliver himself and are well up to date – indeed one of the best was that of Dan Leno singing "The waiter", which was taken but six days ago. The records of the bands are very fine indeed, each instrument being very distinctly reproduced and heard in every part of the house CDN 1900 06 19

1900 07 18

The proprietor of Tudor's Circus of Varieties, Cambridge was sued by Foulger's Band. They had been hired for three weeks. The band was composed of five performers – cornet, piano, euphonium & two violins. They were each paid £1.12s.6d. per week. On the first night it was a "scratch band" as Mr Foulger could not be there, & the pianist could not accept the engagement. An important feature in the performance was singing and dancing but a piano was not an essential part of the orchestra. The only complaint was from an inferior artiste who could not sing & had no music. 00 07 18

1901 05 23

Guidice Gelsomnio, an Italian organ-grinder was summonsed for playing a musical instrument in Jesus Lane, Cambridge; as the defendant did not understand English an interpreter named Antonio Arpino was engaged. The occupier of Little Trinity, Mr James Herbert Taylor, said he asked him to desist playing within 100 yards of his house. Defendant gave up playing and went away. He was

playing in Bridge Street in the evening. P.C. Evans measured the distance to be 75 yards. Defendant said he did not know how many yards it was from one house to another. He was fined 2s.6d c01 05 23

1903 04 38

Dr Mann's famous Festival Choir dissolved but singers change name to Cambridge Choral Society, town rather than gown organisation (1924 name changed to Cambridge Philharmonic Society) [2.21, 4.11]

1903 07 07

Cambridge is becoming an uncongenial place for the purveyor of pirated music. The latest of several seizures took place at the instigation of Messrs Bedwell, music dealers of St Mary's Passage. A member of the firm, with the assistance of police, examined a stock of music being sold by several hawkers on Market Hill. About 80 copies of well-known songs and some of Sousa's marches were found among the stock being sold cheaper than authorised charges for music produced by the holders of the copyright. They were promptly confiscated and taken to the police station. The hawkers were agents of a huge and craftily constituted organisation that exists for the distribution over the country of music of this description. 03 07 07

1904 10 15

Penny Pops Concerts held years ago by college music societies revived by Town Council [3.19]

1904 07 02

Few realise the lavish expenditure on the May Balls held in Cambridge Corn Exchange. After the corn merchants have vacated the building on the Saturday evening a small army of workmen take possession. They labour until midnight when the advent of the Sabbath and the strict rules governing municipal buildings shut them out for 24 hours. With the first hour of Monday morning they re-enter and by eight that evening the place is transformed into an artistic ballroom through which not a vestige of the prosaic Corn Exchange is seen. What of the cost? There is not less than £2,000 worth of goods in the ball room; add to that the cost of utilising the Guildhall as a supper room and include the china and plates for the supper and you have a total of some thousands of pounds to provide our moneyed visitors with an evening's entertainment. CDN 2.7.1904

1904 10 24

For a number of years Cambridge has been without a troupe of minstrels and the idea was mooted of reviving the old X.L.C.R. Minstrels who performed about 14 years ago. The new company is composed chiefly of employees of the University Press. The band comprises nine performers and the chorus and singers provide ample testimony of the excellent training of Mr Stanley Spring. It appears to have a promising future. CDN 24.10.1904

1905 05 06

John Philip Sousa with his famous band performed at Cambridge Guildhall but they are capable of filling a much larger building with a wonderful volume of sound. The programme included selections from the works of Wagner and Puccini. Encore followed each item and in response some of Sousa's celebrated military marches were given with great effect 05 05 06b

1905 08 02

Sir – I was given permission to give Pierrot concerts on the children's playground, Christ's Pieces but then the committee refused to allow me to use any seats for my audience. I was then told they must be discontinued but offered a site on Midsummer Common, only to have this withdrawn when residents complained. I am now left with artistes on my hands and money wasted. My position is consequently very awkward - Robert Elmslie 05 08 02

1905 08 16

A unique feature of the entertainment to be given in the Fellows' Garden of King's College will be a series of cinematograph pictures illustrating the recent visit of the French fleet. During the display the

Police Band will discourse descriptive music. The Chorister Glee Singers will be present and Mr Gambling will introduce his new set of Italian Marionettes. 05 08 16

1905 11 30

Sir – may I raise a feeble voice of protest in regard to street music? Now examinations are nearing it is heart-breaking to feel the wasted hours slipping away to the tunes of ‘Navaho’ or the otherwise impressive ‘Hallelujah’ chorus. My rooms are the scene of furious contests between an organ grinder of foreign extraction, a body of carol singers and a violinist; the latter must be the envy of the male cats of the district – ‘Undergrad’

05 11 30b

1906 06 08

Dr A.H. Mann, the University organist and chorus master, completed 30 years work in Cambridge. He was appointed organist of King’s College in 1876, coinciding with the founding of the new choir school and important changes in the musical services at the chapel. They hoped his tenure of office at King’s would match that of his predecessors – Dr Pratt (55 years) and Dr Randall, 66. 06 06 08a

1906 07 28

Robert Reed told the court he’d hired a piano organ from Antonio Dermaco of Gas Lane, Cambridge, piano organ proprietor, and went out in company of a man named Fuller. They visited the Plough, Comberton leaving it outside. He returned after five minutes to find the organ had disappeared – it had been thrown into the village pond. He got it out and tried to play it, but it did not work and had to be repaired in London. A Comberton carpenter and butcher were seen moving it, but claimed they had left it at the White Horse. 06 07 28

1906 08 21

Two Cambridge organ-grinders appeared in court. Joseph Fuller claimed Antonio Demarco had pulled his organ out of the shed in which it was kept in order to get at his own. They argued about it at the Bird Bolt public house, one struck the other with his fist and knocked him down, then aimed another blow but missed and fell over. The other tried to throw a glass at him. Demarco made a long rambling statement in broken English and was fined five shillings. 06 08 21

1907 02 28

Extraordinary scenes were witnessed at Cambridge Guildhall when Mischa Elman made his second appearance. At the conclusion of his marvellous performance enthusiasm was unbounded with vociferous cheering for several minutes. The audience consisted largely of undergraduates and maidens still well in their teens. He was afterwards besieged in the retiring room by a crowd of admiring autograph-hunters. 07 02 28

1907 04 30

The Moody Manners Opera Company from Covent Garden are paying a return visit to Cambridge with 70 performers. On Monday ‘Faust’ was presented to a full house who enjoyed the complete and artistic manner in which it was performed. The orchestra is well-balanced and gave unbounded satisfaction to the audience 07 04 30

1907 10 08

Charles Henry Swornsbourne was as well-known as any man in Cambridge. He was an albino, possessing unnaturally white skin, hair and eyebrows and pink eyes. ‘Whiteheaded Bob’ was a talented violinist who, years ago, attended undergraduate ‘wine parties’ accompanied by a harpist named Calcott. He led the band at the A.D.C. from its foundation, was musical director for the Bijou Amateurs and provided music for the Beefsteak Club when they met at the Lion Hotel. 07 10 08

1907 11 16

Cambridge had at one time a very professional musical society, but it collapsed. Then came Dr Mann’s Festival Choir. It was followed by the Cambridge Choral Society which originated the

presentation of 'The Messiah' in the Guildhall on Good Friday, drawing large audiences. Through the illness of Mr Fred Dewberry, the conductor, no performances were given this year and the Society fell into a bad way. Now another conductor has been found and it may be set going again. 07 11 16a

1907 12 28

About 100 were present at the Misses Storey's Christmas dance at the Victoria Assembly Ball Rooms, prettily decorated with ferns, mistletoe and festoons. Two new dances, the Empire barn dance and the Esperanto figured in the programme. There being a dearth of Valeta music Mr Oliver Clifton has produced a pretty composition named 'The Storey' which he played on the piano with Mr G. Jackson on violin. Dancing continued until 2.15 am. 07 12 28

1908 02 24

In tall scarlet lettering the name of 'Miss Florence Atkin' has been a poster that has appeared on every hoarding in Cambridge. The name is as familiar to concert-goers as Sarah Berhardt and Marie Hall. She was born in Cambridge and won a scholarship to the Perse School. But the discovery of her superb voice took place when she went to Miss Evans, the head-mistress of the Girls' County School. Miss Evans has spent her life in an atmosphere of music, her one desire to find out and develop all that is best in a girl. She knew at once the importance of her find. 08 02 24a & b

1908 09 05

"The gramophone nuisance of a fine evening is quite appalling" [4.3]

1909 01 30

Dr Naylor wins prize for best opera written by Englishman [3.22]

1909 07 23

The first visit of the Cambridge Police Force band to Coton some years ago will not soon be forgotten. A resident had arranged for a wagonette for their conveyance but when turning a corner by Gt St Mary's they were surprised to see a wheel careering along beside them and the wagon gracefully toppled over, depositing the bandsmen in the roadway. They continued by charabanc but their former driver was accosted by a policeman and ordered to 'clear that wreckage away' or he would be run in. Considering he had brought it over for the conveyance of the police band his indignation can be imagined CWN 09 07 23

1909 12 10

The new skating rink at the back of Hertford Street was constructed to avoid any noise nuisance. Rinking was a fashionable amusement and there would be a charge so it would not be overrun with the rough element. They wanted to have a string band, with no drums, to play at intervals. There was not the slightest intention of making it a dancing saloon but they would like a licence so it could be used for subscription dances during May Week. CWN 09 12 10

## **1910**

1910 02 18

Dr R. Vaughan Williams lectured on 'The Folk Songs of East Anglia' and the enjoyment was enhanced by Mr J. Stuart Wilson of King's College who gave expressive renderings of a number of Old English ballads. Vaughan Williams had discovered the early folk ballad 'Geordie' at Fen Ditton but whether there was a great deal more to be found he did not know. At Fowlmere the Rev Campbell Yorke had got the 'May Day Song' from an old gentleman who rejoiced in the name of 'Hoppy' who preferred to do odd jobs and sleep in sheds and outhouses. He often started the first verse of a song with an entirely different tune and only got into the right swing at the end. 10 02 18 & a

1910 08 27

Borough council concerts popular, 740 average attendance, charge 1d, make profit [3.23]

1910 04 29

A professional singer from Old Chesterton told magistrates he was married at 18 but suffered a serious accident when working as a butcher's carman. His right arm was paralysed and he could do no manual labour. He earned a precarious living by singing at cinematograph shows and entertainments and was often 'one week in and two weeks out'. His wife said they had last lived together four years ago. She had gone out to service while he was trying to earn his living roaming about seeking engagements. He had contributed nothing to her support except in November when he gave her five shillings. But her application for a separation order on grounds of desertion was rejected. 10 04 29b

1910 09 23

A man told the court that he earned £1 a week playing a street organ. It had cost him £18 10s.6d, he'd spent £5 for new tunes, twelve shillings on a new wheel and three-and-six on tuning. A motor car had run into the back of it, knocking it over and causing considerable damage. A four-year old boy who had been in the shafts was knocked over and his hands were cut. There was nobody in Cambridge who understood the instrument and it would have to go to London to be repaired. Repairs would cost at least £3. He had another organ which his son took out. He was awarded £5 for damage to the machine and £3 for loss of earnings. 10 09 23 c & d

1911

Dr Mann inaugurates two series symphony concerts - Sir Henry Wood, Sir Edward Elgar, Thomas Beecham conducts; 1<sup>st</sup> a success but lost money, 2<sup>nd</sup> failure - lack of support [4.4]

1911

Corn Exchange used twice for concerts, never been used for this before & will perhaps never be so used again [4.5]

1911

Whole country interested in Magic Flute, October term [4.4]

1911 02 17

The demand for tickets to hear Melba sing is very naturally heavy. At Millers seats are being continually booked by telephone and every post brings letters. Although Mr Miller only engages the very best talent for his concerts he always tries to accommodate as many people as may be in the cheaper parts of the hall so the general public shall not be deprived of the pleasure of hearing famous singers. Some of these lower-priced seats will be sold at the door. 11 02 17

1911 06 05

Cambridge Amateur Operatic Society first performance was 'Yeomen of the Guard' [16]

1912 05 10

"New Tunes to Hymns, Ancient and Modern" is the title of a little collection composed by the Rev Richard Owen of St Giles' Vicarage and published by Mr A.J. Gillson of Cambridge. In these days of multitudinous hymnals, when every church, sect and connection has its own original compilation of hymn tunes, cribbed and purloined from each other, one seeks the reason for any fresh one. This one is intended for a practiced body of choir singers, the stanzas are unsymmetrical and the rhythm is unconventional. We cordially recommend it to the attention of up-to-date choirs. 12 05 10h

1912 12 12

Cam University Musical Society 500<sup>th</sup> concert – 12 12 12

1912 12 20

Mr Herbert Reynolds was presented with a street piano purchased following a benefit concert in the Beaconsfield Hall. Many local gentlemen had subscribed to alleviate the misfortune of Reynolds' blindness by giving him a means of an honest livelihood. The piano would prove a boom to him in his affliction and – they hoped – he would always conduct himself as befits an Englishman. The first tune

was then played on the instrument which was made by Pasquale and Co and has a round of ten of the latest melodies. An explanatory board is being gratuitously painted and with the collecting-box and the piano cover the outfit is complete. 12 12 20b

1913 02 21

Melba concert review 12 02 21 p12 CIP

1913 10 17

Magpie concert party 13 10 17 p2 CIP

1913 11 28

Frederick W. Metcalfe was head of the printing and publishing firm of Metcalfe & Son on the corner of Green Street which at one time produced most of the publications emanating from Cambridge. Soon after he joined the firm the Cambridge Express was started and he had charge of this popular newspaper until his father's death when it was purchased by the Conservative party. He ran a local troupe of Christy Minstrels including the finest voices amongst the senior members of college choirs. It had a very successful career for several seasons and visited all the principal towns in the area 13 11 28 p7 CIP

1913 11 28

Cambridge Town Silver Band band contest 13 11 28 p10 CIP

1914 01 17

Tango popular, demand for gramophone records [4.6]

1914 10 24

Seven Town popular concerts attended by 6,000 people [4.7]

1914 11 27

Dr. Cyril Bradley Rootham, well-known as a musical composer, is organist at the College and Director of the University Musical Society. Awarded the first fellowship for music ever given by St. John's College, and we believe there are only two other instances in the University of Cambridge viz. Dr. Wood, of Gonville and Caius, and Mr. Dent, of King's College. His compositions are very numerous and of great importance. 14 11 27 CIPof

1918 03

Clara Butt performs at Cambridge Guildhall [1.5]

## **1920**

1920s

Guildhall used for range events, Concerts classical, choral, chamber, orchestral, Pop concerts. Concerts by Millers orchestra ... Messiah, Vaughan Williams great Sea Symphony conducted by Cyril Rootham with composer in audience; Max Arnold, Irene Flanders,

1920s

Memories of musical life in Cambridge in the 1920s; Dr Mann of King's College & his successors – Philip Radcliffe 64 12 08

1920 10 28

Constant succession of itinerant musicians, Mill Rd [4.1]

1922 02 01

Hague Ingram, musician – obituary – 22 02 01, portrait 22 02 08a

1922 05 30

The Cambridge Salvation Army Citadel, Tenison-road, was well filled with visitors and friends when a presentation of new silver-plated instruments took place under the chairmanship of Gypsy Smith. The first instruments to be presented were three cornets, the next consisted of two flugel horns and a euphonium. Mr M. Stuart recalled what the old General had said to him about Salvation Army bands : "It is better for a man to beat a drum than to beat his wife". It was better for a man to blow a flugel horn than to blow his brains out, which was what some poor fellows in the depth were tempted to do 22 05 30

1922 10 16

The winter season of the Saturday Popular Concerts had a splendid send-off at the Cambridge Guildhall. People began to queue up over an hour before the doors were to be opened and the building was packed before the performance commenced; many people thought themselves lucky to be able to stand at the door. Outside crowds of unfortunate latecomers were turned away. The artistes gave of their best and the audience's demand for encores was almost unappeasable 22 10 16

1922 11 17

Dame Clara Butt had a great reception at the Cambridge Guildhall when, with other well-known artistes, she presented a second International Celebrity Concert. The hall was quite comfortably filled and for two and a half hours music lovers had a rare time. The famous contralto gave two trifles by Franco Leoni, "Poor Robin" and "The Little Bird", a delightful humorous number. The audience were much taken with it and, having given it to those in the body of the hall, Dame Clara Butt turned round and sang it to those in the orchestra 22 11 17

1923

YMCA operatic society 1<sup>st</sup> season [4.9]

1923 10 20

Cambridge music lovers can never complain that their wants are not catered for. A new departure will be the introduction for the first time of the Negro spiritual and plantation songs which have long held such a prominent place in the musical life of London. The remarkable thing is that their introduction to Cambridge has been so long delayed. Dressed in the costumes of the period, Miss Edna Thomas, gives her audiences, surfeited did with Negro syncopations, real plantation songs born in the days of slavery 23 10 20

1924

Cambridge Choral Society name changed to Cambridge Philharmonic Society [4.11]

1924 11 05

A feature of the concert given at St Paul's Institute was the debut of Mr Sydney Coulson's dance orchestra in Cambridge. The band comprises Mr Percy Stock (violin), Tom Boyce (saxophone & banjo), Harry Hunt, late of the New Theatre Orchestra (drums) and Mr Sydney Coulson (director) at the piano. With the dance season here the need for a good dance orchestra grows ever greater and there is no doubt that the Coulson band will be in great demand 24 11 05

1926 05 24

An appeal for the modification of the ban on gramophone music has been addressed to the Vice Chancellor on behalf of a party of musical undergraduates. University orders forbid the playing of gramophones in punts on the river during the May terms and gramophone music has been banned from certain colleges altogether. "We have no wish to express any opinion upon the playing of jazz records but suggest the playing of good music, such as the London String Quartet, by students in their hours of relaxation on the river could do nothing but enhance the beauty of the surroundings and the taste of the modern young man", they say 26 05 24

1926 09 17



P.C.Q – “Please Charleston Quietly” is the plea of all real dance lovers as was evidenced at the Rendezvous Ballroom, Cambridge, when demonstrations of the new Flat Charleston Waltz, Tango and Fox-Trot were given. In its new form, with all distasteful kickings and stampings eliminated, the Charleston will appeal to the most fastidious. The Rendezvous with its new decoration, improved sitting-out accommodation and the popular Nobby Clark and his band is assured of an even greater following 26 09 17

1926 12 16

It may not be generally known to the Cambridge public that Mr Carne, the manager of the Playhouse, Mill Road, is the “Victor Carne” who figures in the record list of the Vocalion Gramophone Co. He has recorded “The Holy City” and “The Star of Bethlehem” for their Christmas list and these and other of his records are obtainable at Messrs Leavis’s, Regent Street. Wireless enthusiasts will no doubt remember the many times he has sung from London and Daventry 26 12 16

1927 01 24

The Cambridge Albion Band and the Cambridge Town Band have decided to amalgamate and will be known in future as the Cambridge Silver Band. They proposed to buy a complete set of new triple silver-plated instruments made by Messrs Hawkes, London with the now famous ‘Profundo’ basses as played by the St Hilda Colliery Band. This would greatly improve the tonal qualities of the band; there was not another band in the Eastern counties with such instruments. 27 01 24

1927 03

Sixteenth-century music recorded by HMV at St John’s College Chapel

1927 03 19

Undergraduate singers and musicians are distinguishing themselves just now. Following the enjoyable broadcast by the Trinity Madrigal Club I hear that the Quintaginta Band are to appear at the Holborn Empire during Boat Race week. Mr Charles Gulliver who heard them whilst on a visit to Cambridge has made them “a tempting offer” to appear in one of his halls in the Eastern vacation. The salary, however, is not stated. 27 03 19

1927 03 21

The Charleston shows no signs of waning in popularity at the Premier Dance Hall, Chesterton, and still reigns supreme among the habitués there. In fact this dancing habit has become so much of the place that one sees more uniformity in the style than at any other hall in Cambridge. On Saturday evening Manning’s Band were in their usual good form and played extremely well. Miss Robinson must be one of the last jazz pianists in the town at present. 27 03 21

1927 05 14

St Johns Chapel Choir make gramophone recording with HMV - “Have Mercy” [2.19]

1927 06 08

Chief Os-Ke-Non-Ton, a prince of the Mohawk tribe, gave a fascinating song recital of North American and Red Indian music at Cambridge guildhall. Arrayed in the picturesque costume of his race he rendered invocations, incantations and war whoops of various tribes and concluded with a selection of primitive Red Indian music to tom-tom accompaniment, and a demonstration of making fire by rubbing sticks together. The local arrangements were made by Messrs Miller & Son. 27 06 08

1928 08 13

Dancers and band musicians thronged to a dance band contest at the Rendezvous in Magrath Avenue, Cambridge. Eleven bands took their turns on the platforms. Each played a fox-trot and a waltz. A fault with several bands was that the violinists showed a tendency to overdo their parts. Judging was by popular vote and the results were: 1st Cambs Mental Hospital Dance Band, 2nd Jack Vivian’s Dance Band & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sid Parsley’s Dance Band. The winners, who previously were practically unknown to the

dancing public, played in confident style and nicely together. The band is a six-piece and undoubtedly more will be heard of it. 28 04 13

1929 02 10

Cambridge is becoming increasingly interested in folk songs and folk dances thanks to the local branch of the English Folk Dance Society. Keith Falconer, a Cambridgeshire man who is making a big name for himself in the singing world, is to perform at St Columba's Hall. A sword dance and Morris jigs are included in the programme. 29 02 10 c

## **1930**

1930s

Stirlingaires, Cambridge best known war-time band formed early 1930s by employees of Marshalls & Shorts [10.9]

1931

Percy Cowell opened Dorothy Ballroom 85 01 11

1931 05 08

Sir Henry Lytton and Miss Bertha Lewis, two of the best-known members of the famous D'Oyly Carte Opera Company were injured as the result of a car skid on the Huntingdon Road near Cambridge. Miss Lewis received very serious injuries to the head and neck and is now lying in a critical condition at the Evelyn Nursing Home. Sir Henry fractured a rib, received flesh wounds and is suffering from severe shock. He was driving his Wolseley saloon which turned completely over. The door had to be broken open before the passengers could be extricated 31 05 08l

1931 12 04

Paul Robeson, the famous singer and star of 'Show Boat' sent into raptures an audience of over 1,000 at the Guildhall when he paid his second visit to Cambridge. He took up his position within the shelter of the grand piano where he sang songs of his own land that went straight to the hearts of the people. They ranged from the most sacred of spirituals to "Ol' Man River" followed by the convict song "Water Boy". 31 12 04f

1932 05 04

Mr Taylor, the blind music, was a well-known figure in Cambridge. Who, having talked with him, has not been impressed by the personality of the robust, breezy, genial, gifted blind man who carried on a music business for over 20 years in his little shop in Bridge Street. Not only could he restore any musical instrument, however dilapidated, he was an exceedingly clever player of the violin and 'cello 32 05 04a

1932 12 23

Cambridge Railway Silver Prize Band opened their new hall at Fletcher's Terrace, Romsey Town. They started in 1919 and still had 10 foundation members of the band. They won the Grand Shield at the Crystal Palace in 1922 and in 1926 won the Junior Cup. It showed what an extremely progressive band they were. 32 12 23f

1933

Memories of R Vaughan Williams & Cambridge – 58 08 30 f & g

1933 01 11

The recent starting of a Kentucky minstrel troupe at the BBC has re-awakened interest in this old form of entertainment. Now the Alabama troupe has been formed at Cambridge. They made their first appearance at the Footlights Club room, Corn Exchange Street. Dressed in red and white check costumes they song plantation melodies like 'Oh, dem Golden Slippers' and 'Polly Wolly Doodle' 33 01 11b

1933 01 28

Alabama coons concert party – 33 01 28

1933 02 09

Sir Thomas Beecham, on a first visit with the new London Philharmonic Orchestra to Cambridge Guildhall, completely won over the most severe body of critics in the country – a Cambridge symphony concert audience. They are accustomed to taking their musical pleasures somewhat sedately but let themselves go and the applause and cheering at the end were unusually enthusiastic 33 02 09, 33 01 04

1933 02 17

Mr A.W. Jones, the Cambridge music teacher, has added yet another to his growing list of compositions. It is a song fox-trot 'The Girl Most Suitable for Me' which has been featured with success by Alex Alexander and his Radio boys. It should prove very popular. 33 02 17

1933 04 14

Cambridge Town Silver Band are champions – 33 04 14

1933 05 09

A great wave of cheering swept across the footlights to welcome Jack Payne and his band at the New Theatre. As soon as the world-famous signature tune 'Say it with music' began, the applause commenced, and when the curtain rose upon Jack and his 21 players, the tumult was deafening. It was a tremendous tribute to one of the most cheery figures in vaudeville today. They opened with the American unemployed's song 'Brother, can you spare a dime?' 33 05 09

1933 06 07

The Backs near King's bridge were crowded with punts when the Cambridge University Madrigal Society performed the annual rite of singing on the river. As the sun went down and the moon rose from behind the Gibbs' Building, the cawing of the rooks and the noises of the town ceased, and over the water came the sounds of a Brahms' motet. An aeroplane buzzed like an angry wasp across the sky but failed to break the spell of magical voices which softly floated in the air. 33 06 07

1933 08 14

Old time minstrel entertainment and Memories of the old Arcade – 33 08 14

1933 08 16

George King will always be associated with Miller's music shop's fortnightly gramophone recitals that he popularised when he came in 1929. He introduced the performance of opera on records with full scenic and lighting effects and sang and played at the recitals. He also undertook the entire managerial duties for University dance bands and was compere when the Union Society first staged classical and light gramophone music. Now he is moving to Dale's Brewery as sales manager. 33 08 16

1933 12 09

Godwin Hunt was one of the most popular comedians and vocalists that Cambridge has ever known. Born at Soham, he was associated with many famous theatrical enterprises including the D'oyly Carte Opera before becoming Lay Clerk at St John's College. He was the founder, 30 years ago, of the Magpies Concert Party which enjoyed a tremendous vogue when amusements were not so plentiful as today. Up to the war they were a male voice quartet but then it became a mixed concert party who travelled far beyond Cambridgeshire. 33 12 06 & Godwin Hunt, Magpies founder appreciation – 33 12 09

1934 02 10

Arthur Rubenstein captivated a Cambridge audience in the Guildhall with a brilliant performance at the piano. Good humoured and gifted, he inspired confidence from the first chord and when after two hours the audience wanted more he obliged twice, although he had arranged to motor to London the same night. He was always commanding, often thrilling and at times grand. Rarely have we heard such volume and power, rarely such incredible crescendi. Sadly half the seats were empty. 34 02 10

1934 02 16

Many dancers in Cambridge will learn with regret that Ron Wickes has been compelled to give up his position as official drummer to Percy Cowell's Band. He started drumming with them at the old Rendezvous before joining the band run by Mr Hensher, and later played with Manning's Band when the Premier Hall at Old Chesterton was opened up. From there he went to Skegness for two seasons, returning to the Rendezvous in the interval. He came back to Cambridge three years ago when Mr Cowell started his band at the Dorothy Café and has played with them ever since. 34 02 16

1934 05 10

Gilbert and Sullivan, Henry Lytton's farewell appearances – 34 05 10 & 34 05 18

1934 05 17

Paul Robeson is a genius. The beautifully proportioned giant who has played baseball for the United States, is now studying for a degree in African languages, has an almost perfect Russian accent and a voice whose texture has been described as reminiscent of velvet and mulberries, is no ordinary singer. And thus when he gives a recital at Cambridge it is only natural that he should receive such an ovation as he did at the Guildhall. His songs included two Russian folk songs and Negro ballads 34 05 17

1935 01 05

Albert Chevalier Cambridge visit recalled – 35 01 05a

1935 08 06

The management of the Theatre Cinema (New Theatre) have returned to their popular cine-variety policy. There are four excellent stage turns and an exceptionally fine film. A snappily presented singing and dancing act featuring Jack Lewis and his Rolling Stones with the Wellington Sisters forms the principal item in the stage show, combining dancing by a cheery trio, saxophone work and percussion 'fireworks'. Savona is a remarkable juggler while 'the racketeers of mirth, Roy Lester and Jack Cranston offer a quick-fire cross-talk act. Finally Sereno and June's head-to-head balancing and tumbling act has much which is new even in these days when vaudeville simply abounds with this kind of act. 35 08 06a

1935 09 28

Dr Alan Gray composed many famous pieces of Church music. In 1893 he was appointed organist of Trinity College and was conductor of the University Musical Society – 35 09 28d

1936 05 09

Marjorie Moss who is well-known to local dancers as a crooner with Percy Cowell's band has won a round of a £600 light singing competition organised by the Gaumont-British Corporation & the News Chronicle at Peterborough. She will go to the final at Ipswich and if successful to London for the All-England final. Success there will mean that she will broadcast. Miss Moss, who is a member of the Enthusiasts' Concert Party, chose as her song 'Some of these days' and was accompanied by Percy Cowell himself. 36 05 09b

1936 06 06

Friends of the Cambridge Town Silver Band will be glad to know that they are to give another broadcast on Saturday afternoon. This will be on the 'National' wave length but all B.B.C. stations are taking the programme. Last time the band opened with an original item by the conductor (Mr R.E. Austin) called 'Cambridge Bells' which featured the melody of the Roman Catholic Church chimes.

This time they will start with his new military march 'Cantabrigia'. The band will be having a busy day for that evening they will be playing for the promenade concert on Christ's Pieces 36 06 06b

1937 01 09

Les Walton, the popular Rendezvous band leader, who introduced the 'Jig' which proved a success, has introduced a new dance to Cambridge for the first time. It is called the St Bernard. One of the bandsmen, George Oldfield, brought it back with him after a visit to Streatham Locarno. It is undoubtedly going to make a 'hit' and was enthusiastically taken by 'Rendy' patrons. It is nice to have something fresh in the way of a dance. 37 01 09

1937 02 23

Joseph Reed, the well-known tenor, has retired from his appointment at Trinity College and from the concert platform. He first came to Cambridge in September 1891 as principal tenor lay clerk at Trinity College. He sang in the Mozart Centenary celebrations, at Ely Cathedral and in Dr Mann's musical festivals in King's College chapel. Sir Edward Elgar was a terribly nervous man and when 'The Kingdom' was being performed in King's he was pacing up and down the side of the chapel all the time. Reed undertook concert tours with Dame Clara Butt when a saloon carriage was attached to any train and they sang on the platform every night. 37 02 23 & a, 37 92 24, 37 02 25b

1937 05 07

Four members of George Challice's Band had a remarkable escape from serious injury. They were being driven back to Cambridge from a dance at the new Bottisham Village College when their car, a Riley Nine, skidded on the wet road, caught the verge and somersaulted several times. It finished up on the road with the wheels in the air. The occupants scrambled out with considerable difficulty. When an attempt was made to right the car, it fell to pieces. 37 05 07b

1937 05 26

Sir – today I wandered down to Christ's Pieces. Hearing the band I came to the entrance and behold there was a sign 'Admittance 3d'. I am told that an ancient footpath crosses there. But it must be kept select or perhaps a poor woman with her pram might mix with the few who have paid their threepence. Besides poor people cannot be expected to enjoy the music of a band. The hedge around the bandstand is thick enough to protect those inside from the gaze of the vulgar crowd. So we listened and looked at the band from the street. Cambridge knows how to keep the common herd in their place. But did I not hear somebody say that the people, not the council, own the park? – Canadian 37 05 26a

1937 07 29

By a majority of one vote Cambridge Town Council voted in favour of establishing the Cambridge Municipal Orchestra of 50 players, the first in the country to be run on a voluntary basis. Being amateur it would only cost £20 a year and the director, Mr Parkinson, would maintain a high standard. But some thought the orchestra's excursions into serious music were very rare and very slight; something should be done to provide serious music and not music of the level of the lunch-hour concerts from the Savoy 37 07 29c

1937 11 15

Paul Robeson recital at Regal – 37 11 15

1938 03 19

Cyril Rootham distinguished musician and composer – 38 03 19d

1938 11 22

The Theatre Cinema reopened after a closure of over nine months with a performance of 'The Mikado' by Cambridge Amateur Operatic Society. They had found the building in a poor and dirty condition and put in much work to recondition it. Now it was crowded with a delighted throng; it was

itself again. That pre-overture buzz of conversation created a delightful feeling of mild excitement. At the final curtain everyone was thoroughly happy 38 11 22

1939 02 06

Paul Robeson gave a concert at the Regal Cinema; his friendly smile and magnificent stage presence completely won his crowded audience. He included items of both Russian and Negro origin including "Short'nin' Bread" and Ezekiel Saw de Wheel" with the well-known "Canoe Song" from "Sanders of the River" as an encore. It was followed by "Ol' Man River", "Ma Burly-headed Baby" and "Joshua Fit de Battle of Jericho" 39 02 06a

1939 11 20

Cambridge Municipal Orchestra presented the first Sunday concert of the season. Under the able conductorship of Mr J. Parkinson, the 45 voluntary musicians rendered a programme of popular melodies. Although the opening overture started well, it was ponderous and a poor indication of what was to come. Guest artists William Armistead & Alan Murray sang "I'll walk beside you" and the performance concluded with "Chu Chin Chow" 39 11 20a

1939-45

During the early years of the war, when the Government was encouraging people to spend their holidays at home the Cambridge Entertainments Committee organised August Bank Holiday athletic sports meeting, swimming sports, baby shows and other attractions. They obtained permission to open the Corn Exchange as a canteen for troops stationed in the area; later alterations were made, music and games provided and it became a social centre for thousands of Servicemen and women, a very useful contribution in the dark days of war. It could still, in the hands of an imaginative architect, become the much-needed concert hall Cambridge needed CDN 21.4.54

**1940**

1940

Cambridge Festival of Music Speech & Dancing starts [2.6]

1940 04 09

George Charles Pope, street musician – has gramophone and wheelbarrow in East Road area, marries – 40 04 09a

1941 06 20

Cambridge A.R.P. Messengers Bugle Band believed to be first in country – 41 06 20

1942 06 04

Madrigals on river, one of few surviving May Week events – 42 06 04a

1943 01 16

American concert party at Services Night, Rex Cinema – 43 01 16

1947 10 20

History was made in Cambridge Guildhall yesterday afternoon. The occasion was the debut in Cambridge of the recently formed Eastern Region Symphony Orchestra, a new combination of Mozartian proportions, created to fill the gap caused by the difficulty of getting already-established orchestras away from their accustomed venues for a whole series of concerts c47 10 20

1948 05 11

"New Faces" was the name of the show arranged and presented by Les Baker at Cambridge Guildhall. The biggest hand of the evening was extended to Jean Circuit, crooning with the Stirlingaire's orchestra. Probably best known was Albert Cox, the bass baritone. 14-year-old Rodney Tibbs gave his first-ever pianoforte recital in public. The audience warmed to him

1949

Reg Cottage appointed musical director at the Dorothy in 1949 taking over from Percy Cowell who was there 16 years. Always two bands playing [1.9]

1949

Universal Recording Company, Burleigh Place produce gramophone records [1.11]

1949 12 13

8,000 people – representing a capacity house at every performance – saw the Cambridge Amateur Operatic Society's production of "The Yeoman of the Guard" at the Arts Theatre. The society's president said there is undoubtedly a great demand for Gilbert and Sullivan operas in Cambridge and it has given special pleasure to know that quite a large proportion of the house consisted of undergraduates

1949 12 17

Two Cambridge boys busk in London playing Bach etc on violins [1.12]

1949 12 30

One of England's favourite band leaders, Ted Heath, received a great welcome when he played in Cambridge for the first time last night at the Rex Ballroom. Heath fans turned up in their hundreds – the ballroom was filled to capacity – both to listen and dance to the music of this top-line combination. At times the volume of the band was rather too loud for the Rex – which was perhaps inevitable since it consists of 18 players, but, on the whole, the maestro regulated the tone extremely well. Ted Heath himself has been termed England's "King of Swing". His own band has been in existence for just over four years now. The second band for the evening was the resident one of Roy Richards and his Mayfair Music

## **1950**

1950s

Universal Recording Company of Burleigh Place made special gramophone records in 1950s – 85 08 02a

1950s

Ken Stevens had his own band in 1950s 67 09 29

1950 03 24

Death of J. Parkinson conductor of former Municipal Orchestra built around YMCA which was established during the War [1.14]

1951 05 21

The finals of the crooning contest were held at the Playhouse Cinema, Mill Road. Only two finalists competed, Miss Eve Lynn and Mr Bob Garner. Judging was by Mr Dickie Valentine, who appeared by permission of the New Theatre management. Music for the finals was supplied by Freddie Webb and his band. Mr Garner was declared the winner and presented with the Vaughn Munroe trophy by Dickie Valentine, who then sang three songs at the request of the manager, Mr Eric Dallman 51 05 21

1951 07 30

Cambridge Festival began and as dusk fell to the strains of the madrigals sung under King's College bridge further beauty was added to the well-loved entertainment given by this programme of "Singing by the River". The West end of the College chapel and the Gibbs Building, their outlines softened in the dimness of approaching night, suddenly flowered under floodlight, their stones warm in the glow

but retaining still all its classical dignity of form. The reflections of the chapel rippled in the still river, distracting attention from the madrigals sweetly sung by the Cambridge University Madrigal Society. A BBC recording van on the bank recorded the sounds of this splendid evening in a permanent form.

1951 09 09

The name of Roy Fox will conjure up many nostalgic memories for the generation of dancers who had their hey-day in the years before the war. It was way back in 1930 when he first left America for England and now he has returned to give a new generation the pleasure of dancing to his distinctly individual style of playing. At the Rex ballroom, Cambridge, there was a packed house to hear the melodies of his Whispering Rhythm. Of the 13 members of the orchestra five are violinists – unusual for a popular dance outfit these days – and has a more pleasing effect on the ear than the rather ‘brassy’ arrangements which one normally hears with modern dance bands 51 09 09

1952 05

Choir Festival, Kings College chapel [4.8]

1955

Ken Stevens had his own band in 1950s, won music Maker Musician of the Year Award c1955 67 09 29

1955 06 21

Teddy Boys warned about their behaviour [2.8]

1956 03 12

The Cambridgeshire Orchestra, a newly formed group conducted by Ludovick Stewart, the County Music Advisor, gave its first concert. It has a sound basis in a group of talented string musicians led by Anne Macnaghten and hope to add woodwind and other sections later. Arnold Ashley gave an accomplished performance of Vivaldi’s concerto for cello, never faltering even in the most sprightly passages. 56 03 12

1956 03 24

Miller’s Music Shop began a 100 years ago when Mr A.T. Miller opened a workshop in Hobson Street as an organ builder and piano repairer. The family home was above his wife’s millinery shop in Sidney Street and one of the rooms was opened as a pianoforte showroom. His son introduced the sale of instruments and sheet music and later came harmoniums, gramophones, radio and television and now electronic organs and tape recorders. 56 03 24d

1956 04 21

The demolition of the bandstand on Christ’s Pieces jogged memories for Robert Austin who played on it as a band-boy, bandsman and conductor for over 45 years. It was originally built for the Royal Show on Midsummer Common and afterwards re-erected on the Pieces. It was lighted by naked gas jets which usually blew out and had to be re-lit several times during a performance. The Volunteers, Police and Town bands - between all of whom there was intense rivalry – played there. It was also used for mass meetings and an annual open-air service of Cambridge Men’s Brotherhood. 56 04 21c

1956 07 21

A cantata ‘Fen and Flood’ for soprano, baritone, chorus and orchestra composed by Prof Patrick Hadley with words by Charles Cudworth will receive its first public performance at the King’s Lynn Festival. It was originally performed privately by the Gonville and Caius Chorus and has been rearranged by Dr Vaughan Williams. The orchestration includes a wind machine. 56 07 21 a & b

1956 09 19

Millers music shop has been reshaped, redecorated and reorganised from top to bottom. There are spaces where walls used to be and the radio department is where the pianos were. Frank Chacksfield, the television and recording star, was the first person to make use of the special record booths built



into the record departments downstairs. There is now a 'browsery' where 'discophiles' may browse through records. Long playing records are played over high fidelity equipment and there is a section for 45 rpm records with remote control. 56 09 19 & a

1956 09 24

King's College chapel was the setting for a big gathering of choirs numbering about 400 singers drawn from local churches. A large congregation filled the ante-chapel and overflowed outside the open west door. With the rays of the declining sun streaming through the magnificent west window and the candles inside already alight, the entry of the long procession of choirs and clergy, led by the choir of Saffron Walden church, was most impressive. 56 09 24

1956 10 09

Cambridge Licensing Magistrates have asked Associated British Cinemas not to show the controversial American musical film 'Rock Around the Clock'. The film features a new style of dancing known as "Rock'n'Roll". It is a rhythm similar to some of the African native 'beats' and is alleged to have a startling effect on young people who like 'hot music'. In London dancing youngsters have caused trouble in the streets and assaults have been made on the police. 56 10 09 [2.15]

1956 11 03

Young people from both the city and university have formed a club called 'Stan Kelly's Skiffle' at the Dog and Pheasant, Newmarket Road. Each Thursday evening the rafters ring with folk tunes, work songs, ballads, blues and the like. It has a membership of 80 and anyone who can sing or play an instrument is welcome. Stan Kelly himself leads the group which comprises guitar, bass, drums and a wash-board. The beer crates which form the furniture help add to the atmosphere. 56 11 03b [2.13]

1956 12 11

Stan Kelly's Skiffle club, which meets at the Dog and Pheasant on Newmarket Road, has grown in popularity and threatens to become one of the outposts against the mass entertainment media of film and television. Stan is a mathematician working in London who says only a few traditional folk songs have yet found their way into print and the only way to preserve them is by singing them. Now the BBC may feature it in one of their programmes. 56 12 11

1957

Riverside Jazz band formed [10.7]

1957 01 09

The skiffle playing craze is attracting teenagers to youth clubs all over the country. If you want to make yourself popular, unearth grandma's old metal washboard and take it along. Skiffle groups use them with thimbles for making music. Empty Christmas cigar boxes for turning into box fiddles, tea chests used with a broomstick as a base and clothes brushes which produce a swishing sound on an old suit case are also welcome. 57 01 09

1957 02 16

Rock'n'Roll session Rex Ballroom – Mick Mulligan 57 02 16

1957 05 30

'Rock around the Clock' at Kinema [3.1]

1957 06 04

Stan Kelly and his skiffle group transformed one of Banham's craft into a full-blown Mississippi boat. Singing "We're Alabama Bound" they set off for Clayhithe. Despite playing all the way there and back they still had energy to provide a lively beat on the Bridge Hotel lawn. In no time there was jiving on the grass. 57 06 04c

1957 06 05

‘Don’t Knock the Rock’ film [3.2]

1957 06 29

Alice Reynolds made her first appearance as a trained singer at a concert in the Guildhall in 1916 when, according to the News, ‘she created a sensation’. During the war her ‘Variety Highlights’ party gave 1,000 concerts for troops around Cambridge, making a real contribution to morale. Now although still in good voice she feels it time to make way for younger people and can sit back ‘with a song in her heart’, knowing she has entertained so many. 57 06 29

1957 08 30

‘Tommy Steele Story’ film [3.3]

1957 08 31

The landlord of the Green Man in Trumpington is Charlie Shadwell, the well-known conductor of the BBC Variety Orchestra which has made over 11,000 radio broadcasts, many of them in the ‘Itma’ series that were so popular during the war years. He also conducted the Cambridge New Theatre orchestra during 1930. He makes regular trips to London to arrange music for the BBC television shows. 57 08 31 & a

1957 10 12

Cambridge dancers will learn with pleasure that the Ken Stevens Orchestra have been engaged as the new resident band at the Rex Ballroom. It features singing star Jimmy Cross, sax players Don Jenkins, Mike Waller, Bert Smith and Denis Range with Barry Mason (trumpet), Ken Southee (bass), Bernie Stubbings (drums) and Ken Stevens (piano). 57 10 12

1957 11 15

Gilbert and Sullivan Society starts – 57 11 15

1958 03 01

Stan Kelly, skiffle musician biography – 58 03 01b

1958 05

Central Cinema shows Jailhouse Rock [3.7]

1958 06 10

Cambridgeshire Regiment’s band – March Railway Band mass enlistment – 58 06 10

1958 06 28

Kinema cafe gets juke box [3.6]

1958 08 23

Cambridge Co-op ventured into the specialist field of gramophone records with the opening of a modern record bar in its Burleigh Street department store. Recordings are filed in classified order to make for ease of selection of the standard L.P. and E.P. records. Six sound booths give superb reproduction for customers who wish to hear the recordings. It also stocks a selection of record players, radiograms and tape recorders. 58 08 23b

1958 10 25

Cambridge music firm’s history – 58 10 25e

1959 06 10

The banks of the Cam were lined when the Cambridge University Madrigal Society gave its annual concert on the Backs. It was a very English scene: crowds of impassive spectators defied the fickle weather and a forest of coloured umbrellas rose from the punts on the river. Even the roar of a passing aeroplane and the threat of rain never put the singers off their stride. As the strains of the last madrigal

– ‘Draw on Sweet Night’- wafted slowly across the river, lanterns were lit and the punts carrying the singers began to move slowly downstream 59 06 10c & d

1959 08 19

Dr Hubert Middleton presided over the Cambridge Philharmonic Society for many years and will be remembered for his inspiring lead in promoting festivals for village choirs. His visits to the smallest hamlets, dating back to 1925, are still spoken of with pleasure. As a choral director he demanded the highest standards of those who could achieve them but never lost patience with non-professional choristers. The last combined choirs performance under his direction was perhaps the most triumphant of his career 59 08 19

1959 11 11

Cliff Richard, the 19-year old baby-faced star and the hit parade’s present top-notch, took Cambridge by storm. Excited teenagers, predominantly female, packed into the Regal cinema and clapped, screamed and wailed in readiness for their idol. Cliff, dressed in a ‘shocking pink’ jacket with matching tie, performed his remarkably successful hits ‘Living Doll’ and ‘Travelling Light’. He was accompanied by the Shadows featuring drummer Laurie Jay in place of Tony Meehan who has undergone an appendicitis operation. It was a triumph from start to finish. 59 11 11 & a [2.27]

***1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has detailed newspaper cuttings files from this date***

1960

Jazz - Acker Bilk, Terry Lightfoot, Johnny Danckworth [12.2]

1960 02 19

Lonnie Donegan and his skiffle group made their first appearance in Cambridge on the stage of the Regal Cinema and played his songs “Does the chewing gum lose its flavour on the bed-post overnight”, “Gambling Man” and “Tom Dooley”. It was a more restrained reception compared with the continual screaming which deafened Cliff Richard when he appeared a few months ago. Amongst the other acts were Miki and Griff a polished husband and wife act who soon had the audience where they wanted them. 60 02 19b

1960 03 25

The floor shuddered under 200 pairs of dancing feet. The combined sounds of the trumpets, trombone and clarinet bounced from ceiling to wall to hit the ears with a pleasant sweetness. The Riverside Jazz Club was in full swing. Every week 200 teenagers get together in an upstairs room of the Y.M.C.A. and jive. Baggy sweaters, tight-fitting trews or flared skirts for the girls are the order of the day with jeans and sweaters for the boys. The band line-up includes Ted Vouden on banjo, Tony Thurlbourn on trumpet, Andy Cooper (clarinet), Tony Scott on drums and Sid Barrett on bass. Rodney Dale features as pianist for specialist numbers. 60 03 25

1960 05 14

A crowd of teenage girls waited for an hour outside the Regal Cinema hoping for a glimpse of ‘pop’ singer Cliff Richard. Inside attendants were placed near the stage to head off the teenagers who surged forward at the end of his performance. Cliff’s first three numbers were drowned by the screams, his fourth was barely audible and the rest of the time he unsuccessfully tried to make himself heard over a crescendo of stamping feet, clapping hands and screaming voices. 60 05 14

1960 06 08

Students lounged on the river banks using their gowns as table cloths for alfresco meals and thousands of people crowded the Backs for the University Madrigal Society’s punt-borne concert. Madrigals for five voices did not carry far against the chilly breeze and aeroplanes (‘most tiresome’ said the conductor, Raymond Leppard) and ducks competed for attention. But the audience listened in rapt silence until the singers’ raft moved slowly away to the strains of ‘Draw on, Sweet Night’. 60 06 08b

1960 08 20

Within the next few days a Cambridge rock'n'roll group may be offered the chance of turning professional. The Redcaps has five members, average age 19: Robin Bailey on drums, Jimmy Graham (lead guitar), Graham Smith, Neddy Bishop and vocalist Tony Clark. Their guitars cost up to £148 and the drums £98 but they were fortunate in being given an amplifier. They dress in grey trousers and black shirts but hope to buy new gold lame jackets soon. Their first performance at Newmarket was 'a bit sticky to begin with' as was that at Daddy's Night Club in Cambridge, but now they play in halls around the region. 60 08 20a

1960 10 20

Adam Faith – screaming, stamping teenagers sparsely mixed with incredulous and slightly-dazed parents. Show uninteresting but audience gave magnificent performance – Varsity. 60 10 20

1960 12 14

Cambridge Amateur Operatic Society gave first performance in 1910 – 60 12 14

1961

Cambridge Festival set up by volunteers in 1961, Mary-Rose Clark recalls hard times – 90 07 12a

1961 03 11

"Miller & sons have been largely responsible for past 100 years for bringing International celebrities & leading orchestras to Cambridge", International celebrity concerts between wars [19.1]

1961 02 01

The Chequers Rock'n'Roll group, formed by members of St Luke's Youth Club, staged a dance in the Guildhall. Jennifer Smith plays the drums, the vocalist is Andy Peters, bass guitarist Tony Saintey, rhythm guitarist Noel Gooch and solo guitarist Tony White. They featured four of their own tunes which are intended for an experimental record they hope to make soon. Johnny Cullum and the Phantoms, a group better known in Newmarket, also performed. 61 02 01c

1961 03 09

The Phantoms rock and roll group have signed an exclusive contract with Palette Records. The group comprises Ken Leverington, David Cooke and Cliff Gentle, of Cambridge, on guitars, Freddie Smart, a Chatteris hairdresser on drums and Johnny Cullen of Bottisham as vocalist. They had been playing together for six months when two undergraduates, both songwriters, heard them at a dance. They learned 10 new numbers in three weeks and recorded a demonstration disc. Now 'Phantom Guitar' is to be released through Pye in April 61 03 09

1961 03 25

Staff formed a barricade to stop girls from storming the stage in the closing minutes of the Adam Faith show at the Regal. Dressed in a casual beige sweater, Adam spent most of the evening he was not on stage signing books or photographs and talking to fans. He sang most of the songs he has put in the hit parade including "Who Am I" accompanying himself on the guitar with the backing of four of the John Berry Seven who played throughout the evening. Gerry Dorsey gave a vigorous performance, pulling the maximum screams, but Johnny Le Roy did not bother with gimmicks, using his rich voice to open the evening's programme. The Honeys, dressed in sugary pink, brought some glamour to the show while Chris Carisen worked hard as the compere 61 03 25a [8.4]

1961 04 13

'Mr Cliff Richard and his associates have done more to continue some children's musical education than the whole world of music teacher and administrators', Ludovic Stewart, the County Music Adviser says in his annual report. Music teachers are in short supply and pupils find solace in the sort of music they can teach themselves with the help of a shilling guitar tutor and some pop records. Rock-and-roll music depends upon amplification and is expensive but some outlay on guitars would

benefit pupils, he recommends. Skiffle groups provide an ideal club activity and should be encouraged by head teachers 61 04 13a

1961 05 29

The Shadows, an instrumental group who have developed an individual style of their own, entertained fans at the Regal Cinema. They have an elaborate arrangement of electronic and amplifying equipment that produces a sound that has become so effective, novel and unusual. The group, who until a short while ago were responsible for most of the backings in Cliff Richard records, played many of their popular numbers including 'Frightened City'. Supporting acts included the Brook Brothers and the Red Price Group while Dave Allen the compere kept up a quick-fire routine of off-the-cuff humour 61 05 29

1961 06 07

Madrigals sung for second year at Trinity (previously at Kings) [9.2]

1961 10 25

Local rock 'n' roll fans were given a bumper evening at the Regal Cinema. Star of the show was Billy Fury who received a tremendous reception from the teenagers and several young girls ran down the aisles but were turned back by cinema staff. Amongst the supporting cast was Joe Brown, a singer from the East End of London, Eden Kane, the Allison's (who came second in the Eurovision Song Contest), Tommy Bruce, the Karl Denver Trio and the Viscounts. Musical backing was provided by Peter Jay and the Jaywalkers 61 10 25a

1961 10 25

Pop-singer Billy Fury was taken to Addenbrooke's Hospital after collapsing in his room at the University Arms Hotel. He was carried on a stretcher to a waiting ambulance watched by 20 people, including schoolgirls and teenagers. Fury – real name Ronald Wycherley – had been working for the past five days against doctor's orders. He is suffering from bronchitis and a throat infection. Last night he cut short his act at the Regal Cinema, singing only three numbers including the hit 'Halfway to Paradise'. A series of X-rays later revealed that he was suffering from a kidney complaint and he was taken by car to a London clinic 61 10 25, 61 10 26 [12.4]

1961 10 28

Cambridge Amateur Operatic Society celebrate golden jubilee – history 61 10 28a 61 12 12a

1961 11 16

Several hundred people packed the Dorothy to watch UK 1962 ballroom dancing champions Bob Burgess and Doreen Freeman give an exhibition of dances including the waltz, quickstep, cha-cha, twist and Madison. After demonstrating the basic steps and variations of the Madison Bob & Doreen called for other couples to join in and soon the floor was crowded with keen enthusiasts 61 11 16a

1962 04 09

The Big Star Show at the Regal Cinema was assured of success before it began, helped by the enthusiasm of modern teenagers with hands sore from clapping, feet aching from stamping and throats sore from shouting. Billy Fury went through his handful of hits, did a series of acrobatic gyrations and left to an onslaught of applause and a stampede of young girls. Eden Kane sang the songs which have made him famous, Joe Brown called for quiet – to no avail - but Shane Fenton and Jackie Lynton received less hero worship and wild enthusiasm. It was a slick show, loved by the teenagers and witnessed with amused benevolence by their elders. 62 04 09

1962 04 23

'Prowlers' pop group – photo – 62 04 23c

1962 10 11

City Music Festival week a success [7.3]

1962 11

Madison demonstration Dorothy, Nov 1963

1962 11 19

Billy Fury meets Cambridge fans Roger Crow & David Mackie – 62 11 19

1963

Cliff Richard Feb [8.15]

1963 03 20

Chris Montez, the young American singer, sang his hit tune “Let’s Dance” before packed houses at the Regal Cinema and judging from the amount of screaming and cries from the female section of the audience, he was worth it. Tommy Rose gave a more sedate performance of “Little Sheila” but the most versatile group was the Viscounts. The Beatles, a four-man ‘rock’ group with weird hairstyles as a gimmick, sang and played their current hits, “Love Me Do” and “Please Please Me”. The fast-moving show was not the best Cambridge audiences have seen but enthusiastic teenagers agreed the flying visit of the stars was well worth while. 63 03 20 [3.13]

1963 03 29

Brian Poole and the Tremelos, Regal [3.14]

1963 04 15

Cambridge’s latest jazz club in the dimly-lit cellar of the Dolphin public house in Coronation Street is fast building a reputation for modern jazz. Every Wednesday the resident group, the Percy Seeby quartet, backed during the interval by records, plays to a membership now limited to 100. Half an hour after the band starts the cellar was full and it was even difficult to climb down the dozen or so steps. Another popular item in the programme is poetry reading lead by Nigel Gordon. 63 04 15

1963 05 10

Cambridge Riverside Jazz Club has moved from the YMCA Hall to the Red Cow public house behind the Guildhall. The clubroom is being converted and several murals for wall decorations have been prepared by local art students. The club, which has over 500 members, will feature the Percy Seeby quartet playing modern jazz on Sundays, Pete Sayers and the Bluegrass Cut-Ups with their country and western music on Wednesday and the Riverside band with traditional jazz on Thursdays. 63 05 10

1963 06 06

“Rock and roll has taken the place of Traditional Jazz Bands [3.15]

1963 09

Rolling Stones appear at Rex September [3.16]

1963 10 14

There were so many artists appearing in the Regal Stage Show that ten of the performers had no dressing room space and had to change in the nearby University Arms. Heading the cast was singer Billy Fury whose songs were accompanied by the usual shrieks and squeals of teenage girl fans. Joe Brown and ‘The Bruvvers’ nearly stole the show as he jumped round the stage playing his guitar behind his head. In more relaxed vein The Karl Denver Trio presented their hit ‘Still’. But Marty Wild and the Wildcats received only lukewarm applause. 63 10 14 [3.17]

1963 10 26

A thousand teenagers queued outside the Regal Cinema in the early hours of the morning to obtain tickets for the visit of the Beatles, the Liverpool pop singers. Police patrolled the line which stretched over 200 yards along Downing Place. Armed with transistor radios, blankets, sleeping bags and even

primus stoves, they settled down for the night. When the doors opened at 7 a.m. – three hours early – Maurice Cornell of Byron Square was at the head of the queue 63 10 26, a b

1963 11 26

The Beatles, the current idols of Britain's teenagers, were smuggled into Cambridge by the City Police in a Black Maria. They were driven into the Downing Street site then rushed into the rear entrance of the Regal Cinema before 200 screaming girls broke through the police cordon and dashed along Downing Place. Once inside the doors were slammed shut. Police will not let them out until after the last performance. Every available Cambridge policeman is ready for duty. But the elaborate security measures taken to prevent demonstrations before they were due to appear at the Regal Cinema went wrong: police were due to meet the Beatles' car near Trumpington but they had almost reached Lensfield Road before it was spotted 63 11 26

Lennon and cynical Cambridge – Beatles visit 1963 – 80 12 10

1963 11 27

The Regal Cinema rocked with sound during the visit of the Beatles – but only a small part of it was musical. During the two performances there was a continuous crescendo of screams and shouts. Girls jumped up and down in their seats, many tearing at their hair and waving souvenir programmes. The Red Cross had a dozen men in pairs to deal with cases of fainting and hysteria while the foyer resembled a miniature battle station with blankets and large bottles of smelling salts. Afterwards, with the curtains still closing, hundreds of excited squealing girls rushed from the cinema to wait for the Beatles to come out. But the singers had already been smuggled away to their hotel across the road.

63 11 27c

Beatles enjoy a late morning nap before leaving; Beatle drive beats the fans – 63 11 27, 63 11 27b

1963 12 12

The Phantoms, four young Cambridge men, went to Sweden two years ago to find the fame every guitar group seek. Since then they have never looked back, getting a best seller in the Swedish hit parade and become trend-setters where they have appeared – a sort of Scandinavian equivalent of the Beatles. They can earn up to £70 a week each, after expenses (about £1,200 today). Kenneth Leverington, Cliff Gentle, Dave Clarke and Robin Bailey formed the group in June 1960 having played in different local groups. Altogether they have made 10 best-selling singles and a LP album.

63 12 12b

1964 02 14

"Five centuries of Cambridge musicians" commemorates quincenarian of first recorded Degree in Music – 64 02 14a

1964 04 24

City of Cambridge Brass Band needs new instruments: the old are obsolete and fashions have changed. They are having a successful season, getting through to the finals of the Daily Herald National Championships and taking part in an open air brass band concert in London as well as frequent appearances at holiday resorts like Yarmouth. But over all their activities hangs the fear that their instruments could give up the ghost at any minute. 64 04 24c

1964 05 02

Strawberry and the Fruit Drops, The Wreckers, The Huntsmen, The Inmates, The Ancestors and The Spyders are beat groups who rehearse in the building which adjoins the Grand Cinema in Huntingdon. The premises are occupied every night of the week by one group or the other. Most of what the boys earn goes towards buying instruments, equipment and running three minibuses. During weekdays they restrict their bookings to 40 miles from Huntingdon but they will travel any distance on Saturdays. Two of the groups, The Wreckers and the Huntsmen have reached the finals of a Beat Competition at Northampton that was judged by Norrie Paramour who asked for a recording. But now their rehearsal area is to close 64 05 02a

1964 05 30

Screaming teenage girls besieged the Co-op in Burleigh Street when the Merseybeats, a 'pop' music group from Liverpool, made a personal appearance. Four policemen pushed the crowds back when the group arrived in a taxi and inside girls clambered on to radiograms, refrigerators and television to see them as they signed autographs in the record department. Some girls wept and others grabbed publicity photographs. Finally John Banks, Tony Crane, Aaron Williams and Johnny Gustafson escaped and relaxed with coffee before departing for Manchester 64 05 30

1964 06 06

Undertakers, The Moving Coils, Black Diamonds and Dawnbreakers. Most nights it provides a musical attraction: jazz sessions on Tuesday with top flight bands such as Kenny Ball and Chris Barber. But just around the corner the Dorothy Restaurant has featured Kathy Kirby, the Merseybeats and Manfred Mann. Helping to bury the old cry that Cambridge is 'dead' after dark are the cellar-bar 'shuffles' where regulation dress is jeans or slacks, sloppy sweaters and dark glasses. When not twisting or shaking the current rage for both sexes is to smoke miniature cigars and drink 'James Bonds' 64 06 06b

1964 07 14

Club Jazz, which opens at the Lion Hotel, is the first to have Musician's Union support and is an attempt to sink differences between bands, individuals and musicians which have bedevilled the jazz scene for many years. Mondays will feature folk music, Tuesdays modern and Thursdays traditional jazz presented by local bands. Sitters will be able to sit and listen without a soundproof screen of dancing bodies. Dancers can dance without being invaded by drinkers from the bar and drinkers can listen at a distance that makes the music a comfortable background to conversation and not a vociferous profusion of decibels 64 07 14

1964 08 08

Jazz club opened Lion Hotel [9.5]

1964 12 19

Sir Arthur Bliss conducted premier of own 'Golden Cantata' [9.4]

1965 01 16

Peter Coe of Cambridge blows the tenor sax for Georgie Fame on 'Yeh Yeh' which has pushed The Beatles from the top spot in the hit parade. He is an ex Cambridge High School boy and began his playing career at Coleridge Youth Club. The jazz group he helped to found came third in a national competition organised by 'Melody Maker'. He is now a full professional with the Blue Flames who pick up £200 a performance. His parents in Catherine Street are devoted to the Blue Flames new wave Rhythm and Blues – 65 01 16

1965 06 22

Cambridge concert hall needed' in 1903 3,000 people heard Melba sing in Corn Exchange, up to 1920s were Saturday Night Penny Pops at Guildhall but plans for expansion shelved; Corn Exchange and Regal Cinema also used and were afternoon concerts – feature by Millers Music Centre – 65 06 22

1965 08 02

First Folk Festival attracts 1,500 fans – 65 08 02aa

1965 10 01

Rolling Stones visit to Regal means will not see Everley Brothers – 65 10 01b

1965 10 22

Rolling Stones – police operation to get them to Regal – 65 10 16c; Rolling Stones interview – 65 10 22e [12.6]



1965 02 05

P.J. Proby dropped - smutty act [12.8]

1965 03 19

A more suave, more affable Billy Fury sang briefly at the Regal Cinema but he left out the storming and the wriggling which he pioneered a few years ago. The show was a little frayed. He sang flanked by his own group, the Gamblers and 11 John Barry men. As there were quite a few saxophones, his voice was sometimes drowned. "Lost Without You", his recent flunk was moaned and demonstrated how Fury has lost his fangs 65 03 19a

1965 04 02

A new folk group, the Blue River Boys, specialise in American Bluegrass Music. They comprise two guitarists, Andrew Kendon and Mike Scott, mandolin player Joe Watson, banjo picker Erik Grainger and bassist Adrian Kendon. Meetings at the Horse and Groom have become so packed that the Cambridge Folk Club is moving to the large hall of the YMCA in Alexandra Street where 200 can sit in comfort. Later a concert will be held featuring Mike Seegar, brother of America's leading folk singer, Pete Seegar 65 04 02b

1965 04 12

Yardbirds cancel Corn Exchange concert due to flu – 65 04 12b

1965 06 22

Cambridge concert hall needed' in 1903 3.000 people heard Melba sing in Corn Exchange, up to 1920s were Saturday Night Penny Pops at Guildhall but plans for expansion shelved; Corn Exchange and Regal Cinema also used and were afternoon concerts – feature by Millers Music Centre – 65 06 22

1966

1<sup>st</sup> discotheque club - "La Capannia" at Rose, Rose Crescent [12.9]

1966 09 06

Harry Day played penny whistle; at Stourbridge Fair joined 'Herb' Reynolds and Charlie Hunter with their concertinas and harp on the upper floor of the Oyster House playing reels, waltzes etc – 66 09 06

1967 05 31

Cambridge Players formed (10 years 1977), 20-40 players, professional - ie most make living as professional musicians [11.1]

1967

Pink Floyd started, only real claim to pop fame [11.6]

1967 09 29

Ken Stevens' music shop moves from Petty Cury to Guildhall Street; had his own band in 1950s, won music Maker Musician of the Year Award 12 years ago. Orchestra started as resident band Rex, now full-time professional playing Norwich. 67 09 29

1967 10 13

Concert Hall plan at Queen Anne Terrace rejected, multi-terrace car park and sports hall instead – 67 10 13

1968 07 11

Jazz & Drama Festivals added [7.10]

1969 03 07

Riverside Jazz club revived at Romsey Labour Club after several years, was previously held YMCA when 3-400 attended each week [9.7] – 69 03 07a

1969 06 10

Midsummer pop festival, 3,000 attend first of four days, Midsummer common; complaints about noise, another Jesus Green – 69 06 10a

## **1970**

1970 03 09

Moore Pianos to close after 50 years due problems skilled staff – 70 03 09

1970 04 25

Harold Woolfenden runs Cambridge Music Shop – profile – 70 04 25

1970 06 22

Cliff Richard sings and speaks at Gt St Mary's – 70 06 22

1970 08 14

Free pop concert Coldham's Common [7.13]

1971 06 14

Pop concert Coldham's Common [7.14]

1971 07 01

Trouble-torn pop festival Coldham's Common could be the last [7.14]

1971 09 10

Mini pop festival Grantchester Meadows [7.15]

1971 09 16

Jazz Festival lost £1,450, no more but concerts [7.16]

1972 05 02

Stepping through the doors of the Rock Hotel, Cambridge last night was like stepping back in time. Teddy boys were propping up the bar, Jerry Lee Lewis was rock'n'rolling on the turntable and other teds were jiving around the floor. But these were not the teds who slashed cinema seats and slouched around in the late 50's. The velvet drapes were there along with drainpipe trousers, bootlace ties, frilly shirts and hair cream. But the years had mellowed the people wearing them. The occasion was the first meeting of the Cambridge Rock'n'Roll Club. One ted said "It's nice to remember the good old days" 72 05 02

1972 11 15

Young people in Cambridge have lost their Saturday night dances - the high spot of their week - and this has meant more violence in the city, Steve, an apprentice chef at Christ's college claims. The Dorothy - the city's best known catering and dancing centre - closed in August. Teenagers have looked for other dances, but tend to spend more time wandering around looking for somewhere to go that staying in any place. Saturday night dances at the Corn Exchange suit another type of person, said Steve. They prefer a different sort of music, which he describes as "heavy". He and other young people who frequented the Dorothy preferred Tamla Motown music. There are more than 80 people who used to go to the Dorothy. Many of these now wander the streets of Cambridge, travelling from one pub to another looking for something to do.

1973 05 04

It could be a record year for four singers from Cambridge area who have all had new LPs issued within the last few months. They are Pete Atkin, Jancis Harvey, Pete Sayers and Shusha. Mr Atkin, a professional singer appeared in several University Footlights Club revues. His lyricist is Clive James, a Pembroke graduate, critic, journalist and erstwhile front man of the television programme "Cinema". Jancis Harvey, clear-voiced as ever but now very much more professional, has filled the Albert Hall at Nottingham while singing in concert. Pete Sayers, country singer and guv'nor of Grand Ole Opry, the monthly show at Newmarket, needs no introduction to countless Newmarket fans 73 05 04

1973 06 27

David Willcocks leaves Kings, at Cambridge since 1957 [10.1]

1973 07 18

Ken Stevens music shop moves to Sussex Street; own band success 1950s, won Melody Maker Musician of Year award (1955), orchestra started as resident bans Rex, now full-time professional, playing Norwich, started 1958, moves shop Petty Cury to Guildhall St (1967) [27.2.10.7]

1974 04 20

Four youths were arrested and three needed hospital treatment when 1,000 pop fans went on the rampage at Cambridge Corn Exchange. 68 windows were smashed and police with dogs took an hour to restore order. Police said trouble started when an American group, The Drifters, failed to appear. The packed hall had waiting for 90 minutes for the group to turn up. Each had paid £1.10p. to get into the 8pm to 1am pop concert

1974 06 10

Free pop festival, Strawberry Fair [11.9]

1974 08 09

Several hundred people were turned away from the Corn Exchange, Cambridge, when a top American group, the Ronettes, failed to turn up for a concert date. Their agent confirmed their lead singer Ronnie Spector had been taken ill. Earlier in the year several hundred fans went on the rampage when another American group, The Drifters, failed to play a concert date 74 08 09

1975 03 27

Jazz festival - no suitable venue & scrapped, run past four years by Jazz Club [7.18]

1975 10 17

Attempt to use Sports Hall for discos banned by Council as would be competition for the Corn Exchange [23.7]

1975 10 19

Cambridge University Chamber Singers formed [11.4]

1976

Michael Copley & Dag Ingram to Germany 1976 & on return started in Cambridge, busked for policeman's ball at Huntingdon & returned to Germany where record released.

1976 02 02

More than 100 people were turned away from Holy Trinity church when Cliff Richard, pop star and evangelist, visited. About 700 people had already been admitted. Some of them had queued in freezing conditions to be sure of a place at the service. Earlier in the afternoon the singer had appeared in an evangelistic concert with the Brightwinter Group at Lady Mitchell Hall. Some 500 people paid £1 a head and the profit will go to a Christian charity 76 02 02

1976 02 09

Sports Hall first attempt at own concert featuring Julie Felix flops due to poor acoustics, amplification & atmosphere - "I feel like I am singing in a morgue"; but Spinners & Stephan Grapelli sell out [23.9] [23.9]

1976 05 20

Cambridge boasts some of Britain's best buskers and two of them will appear on BBC Television's Nationwide. No doubt accordionist Dag Ingram and flautist Michael Copley will perform classical music with their customary elan but one viewer will watch with a baleful eye. Jerry Bol, the accomplished 22-instrument one-man band from Gt Staughton, a veteran of many television appearance, is sometimes belting out "I love to go a-wandering" at the same time that his rivals are dashing off a quick burst of Bach 76 05 20

1976 11 16

One-time superstar Billy J. Kramer, who had a string of world-wide hits in the 60's, walked down Mill Road, Cambridge, looking for a sauna. The more exotic delights of the street didn't quite capture his imagination. Later at Romsey Labour Club his hour-long show combined new material with well-rehearsed medleys of old hits. By the end of the night people were standing on tables, clapping, stamping and cheering as he ran for the door to a waiting get-away car 76 11 16

1976 11 18

Nick Barraclough leads one of the most entertaining bands to emerge in Cambridge for many years. Halfway through the set of Telephone Bill and the Smooth Operators in Willingham village hall, Nick, a veteran of Cambridge's folk scene, former member of the Grand Ole Opry Road Show and with masses of musical experience, is tall with a mop of curls a moustache and ever-ready grin. On stage he does the talking, sings and plays guitar, slide dobro, banjo. He also tries to keep the group disciplined, no easy task. All the music has a good time feel and the group bubble with good humour 76 11 18

1976 11 19

Val Doonican, Harry Secombe, The Spinners, Julian Bream, Stephane Grappelli, Los Paraguayos – all of these artists have appeared in Cambridge within a year. All were presented by the City Amenities and Recreation Department, working under director John Wilkinson. Every concert cost city ratepayers 6p per seat for every person attending, but two years ago the figure was 50p-per-seat. Sales for Val Doonican were disappointing and a loss of £1,100.83 was incurred but The Spinners drew a full house of 1,500 to the Sports Hall for the first time and a profit of £360.09 resulted. It now provides Cambridge with an auditorium large enough for bigger artists to draw sufficient numbers of people to pay their fees 76 11 19

1976 12 13

The Cambridge Symphony Orchestra concert turned from a potential flop to a solid hit when music-lovers rallied round to save it from disaster on Saturday. The concert seemed doomed to lose more than £2,000 but with nearly 1,000 people attending they could just break even. The managing director of the non profit-making orchestra, Mr Jonathan Wearn said: "Beforehand were all very despondent and our guest soloist and conductor, Mr Tamas Vasary, was doubtful about confirming his March booking. Afterwards he said it was definitely on. We were so encouraged by the tremendous response and the way people rallied round at the last minute that we shall continue our links with the city". He admitted that administratively the organisation still had some problems to sort out but most of the concerts have been successful financially 76 12 13 [9.10]

1977 04 15

Cambridge Concert Orchestra in 10<sup>th</sup> year, started as Cambridge Light Concert orchestra [9.11]

1977 04 30

Musicians' discontent over the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra turned to anger as more professionals claimed they were owed money. And as a London orchestral agency told of their wrangle over a

cheque for more than £1,000 the Musicians' Union attacked the orchestra's policy of not paying amateurs. The eight-month-old semi-professional orchestra is in a desperate financial condition. A London orchestral agent reported that he was "flabbergasted" at the way the Orchestra had treated its players. "I can't think why you people in Cambridge support it. I knew this would happen. You can't hope to run an orchestra on a shoestring", he said. 77 04 30

1977 08 03

Cambridge's £3 million concert and conference hall that never was began with a £2 million promise to pay for the conversion of the Corn Exchange. But that promise, made in 1974 was short-lived. Mr David Robinson decided that the Corn Exchange was ugly and should be pulled down. Instead he favoured a purpose-built concert and conference hall on the Downing Street end of the Lion Yard complex. The man at the centre of those protracted negotiations was Coun Jack Warren who told him it was a listed building and could not be pulled down but he pooh-poohed this. In October 1976 Mr Robinson wrote to say it would be impossible for him to provide the money, and then gave another £7 to Robinson College. 77 08 03

1977 10 12

Duke of Edinburgh opens University Music School [02.4.18]

1977 10 18

CSO start concerts again after three months, still owes money [11.2]

1977 10 19

Cambridge Youth orchestra first public concert (formed 7 years) [11.3]

1977 08 03

Cambridge pop groups are to be given a chance to make their names in the music industry. Lee Wood, the owner of "Remember Those Oldies" record shop in King Street has just launched his own record label for lively local bands. Having acquired the 16-track recording facilities at Spaceward Studios he is looking for local groups to promote on his new label entitled "RAW" and has plans to produce an LP of all the Cambridge groups over the last ten years. One of the first bands to be recorded are punk-rockers The Users, whose single "Sick of You" has already sold 10,000 copies. 77 08 03

1977 09 03

Sitting in the enormous blue tent on Jesus Green and watching the incomparable Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet I felt that this is what a fully international university city should be all about. The huge tent provides a sufficiently large stage and seats to stage large performances and make them pay. Cambridge should consider investing in something of this sort. It took a lot of courage, hard work and imagination to bring Sadler's Wells to Cambridge and they have brought Cambridge to the crossroads. Either it goes forward from here or it retreats. 77 09 03

1977 09 26

Before I met The Stranglers I met their fans who formed a bizarrely-painted and clothed chain stretching from the Corn Exchange to King's Parade. First in the queue was a character by the name of Rat Rancid, with his mate Garry Gangrene, from King's Lynn. Here were some punks that looked every bit as vile as the ones we've all read about. They were horrible. I think it was the safety pins through the cheeks that made me feel slightly sick, but it may just have been the chains through their noses. They snarled and leered while my colleague, Mike Manni, took their pictures. Then Rat put down his can of Party Seven and scribbled his address. Could we send some prints. "To Rat Rancid", I asked. "Oh, no", he gasped. "My mum wouldn't like that" 77 09 26

1977 10 22

Cliff Richard, pop superstar and hot gospeller, fervently preached a message to the converted during his first Cambridge concert for many years. Unfortunately the message was hammered home between every song. He talks about his religious beliefs so much that I was bored beyond embarrassment. Why

couldn't he just sing? He delivered Elvis' "Heartbreak Hotel" and his own unforgettable early hit, "Living Doll" and just before the end really started rockin' up a storm with two heavy beat numbers, real vintage Richard rock 'n' roll. 77 10 22

1977 11 24

A suggestion that the controversial punk rock group, the Sex Pistols, should visit Cambridge has been turned down by city council officials who fear they would attract the wrong sort of clientele. All punk rock groups who appear in council buildings should be of the moderate and non-controversial kind. An agency had suggested that they could perform in a tent on Midsummer Common. 77 11 24

1977 12 12

The Spinners filled the 1,600-seat Cambridge Sports Hall for the second time this year, with their Christmas show. They are a perfectly assured, wholly-professional, middle-of-the-road group with a wide-ranging repertoire and pitched into a selection of songs and carols including some of their hits like "The Family of Man". Audience participation is very much a part of the technique; they had the people at the back drowning the rest of the audience in a four-part 'round' & started a three-part medley with "While Shepherds Washed Their Socks by Night" 77 12 12

1977 12 22

Cambridge is not short of record shops, so what chance has another one got? The answer, says Andy Gray, is plenty. His latest shop "The Beat Goes On" is something out of the ordinary in that it caters for those interested in "golden oldies" and New Wave records. They specialise in records up to the 1970s and have on display portraits of "The Jam" who opened the shop on Friday. The new shop in Regent Street supplements the premises opened in Mill Road three years ago and Andy's Record Stall on Cambridge market which is still a gathering place for music lovers. 77 12 22

1978

Cambridge Buskers move into big-time, concert Wigmore Hall [38.16.4]

1978 01 03

Three publicans are so alarmed by the prospect of trouble at punk rock concerts in Cambridge Corn Exchange that they will close or guard their premises on the nights of the shows. Their concern follows two concerts when four youths were taken to hospital after a fight and a shop window was smashed. The licensee of the Eagle said "It was absolutely dreadful: all the London trains were full of punk rockers coming to Cambridge because all the other towns have banned them. They spit and strip on stage". The groups on stage that night were the Ramones and the Rezillos, two American bands. 78 01 03

1978 01 06

Four Cambridgeshire policemen are trying to get on the right beat as much as possible – even when they are not working. Off duty they make up "Copper Plate", one of the few all-policemen music groups in the country. The group started when two members got to talking about music while in their patrol car. At the moment they are playing about one booking a month to audiences ranging from a village pantomime to more than 400 people at a dance in St Ives. One member said: "It sometimes surprises us that we actually manage to get together even for a practice, let alone a booking, with us all working different places and different shifts. We like to think of ourselves as being a versatile music and harmony group able to play anything from Beatles to barber's shop"

1978 07 28

The star that has shone over Cambridge Folk Festival of the past 14 years appears to be waning. There is increasing evidence among the mass of faces at this international event that the serious folkie is now staying away and that Cambridge – once the most prestigious event in the folk calendar – is slowly being taken over by an unfortunate yobby element who treat Cherry Hinton Hall like a Pontins holiday camp 78 07 28

1978 08 18

Jerry Bol, the popular Cambridge busker, was fined £2 as a result of the police crack-down on street vendors causing obstructions in the Lion Yard shopping precinct. Police said they counted a crowd of 67 people listening to his one-man-band. Mr Bol told the court he became a busker five years ago & since then had appeared in 25 TV programmes & films. "The children of Cambridge call me 'Mr Music Man' and I stand in Petty Cury for their safety. The Duke of Edinburgh and the Mayor of Heidelberg came to see me", he told the court, & would pay his fine with £3 given him by well-wishers since his arrest. 78 08 18

1978 09 13

The Cambridge Symphony Orchestra is set to rise 'like a phoenix from the ashes' of its collapse last year. It has financial backing by four local businessmen to guarantee their first three concerts and hopes to regain the goodwill of local people. The format continues as before with a nucleus of professional musicians aided by enthusiastic amateurs and music students, some of school age, who will all be good enough to make a professional sound, bringing a symphony orchestra to Cambridge at a price people can afford to pay. 78 09 13

1979 09 11

Ronelles, a disco restaurant, will soon open above Lion Yard in the heart of Cambridge and one of the city's most interesting business gambles will be under way. It's a big bet. The lease is long but the odds are short that young Cambridge people will patronise a place which they have long insisted is overdue. The club will have a membership of 500 and be relatively expensive with a £100 a year membership fee. It will have an elevated restaurant, two bars, a dance floor, a waterfall and cabins. These together with palm trees and a native mask on the logo suggest the premises may have a Caribbean flavour. It will be a welcome solution to an embarrassing problem for the space, originally intended for offices, has stayed empty for years. CEN 11.9.1979

1979 09 24

Strangers at Corn Exchange, p7

1979 09 29

At the Strangers performance in Cambridge Corn Exchange the punks were matched in numbers by a fair splattering of pseudo-intellectuals and Hawkwind types. They could remember the energy the band used to put into their shows, but now with their softer approach the maniacal crowd response was lacking. The pulverising brutality of 'Death and Night and Blood' still surges out but the Strangers have now come of age and command respect. "We're trying a lot of new things, more complex, a bit of jazz. It went OK, at least Cambridge is always a good crowd", said Hugh Cornwell, recalling the Corn Exchange concert two years ago when bouncers took unkindly to being picked out by spotlights. CEN 20.9.1979

## **1980**

1980 05 31

The Carioca building on Newmarket Road, Cambridge has had a chequered history, from non-conformist chapel to furniture store and now night-club. When it first opened in March 1978 it did a roaring trade into the early hours but has been plainly feeling the impact of the opening of Ronelles' in Lion Yard. It offers a restaurant, disco and dance floor together with a games room with bar billiards and juke box for a membership charge of 10p a week. Drinks are cheaper than pub prices but the choice of draught beers – Tolly's Cobbold and Younger Tartan – is disappointing. 80 05 31

1980 07 02

Cambridge is now left with only one regular nightly music spot following the closure of the Beaconfield and Alex Wood Halls and the Alma pub, mainly because of complaints of noise. But there are at least 40 bands desperate for somewhere to play and countless people who want to hear live music. The Carioca Club on Newmarket Road is willing to let bands play on Tuesday nights but

at a total rental cost of £115 bands can't afford it while the Salisbury Conservative Club on Mill Road is almost fully booked until 1982. It leaves just the Great Northern Hotel. 80 07 02b

1980 07 07

First rock music festival flop [7.19]

1980 08 26

Rock concert Midsummer Common cancelled due to noise fears [11.11]

1980 08 28

'Mandy Morton? Is she still around? That reaction is one reason when the ex-Spriguns singer / songwriter is back in Cambridge after a long absence. In 1968 she formed a folk group to raise money for Cottenham Amateur Dramatic Society then started Spriguns as resident group at the Anchor. Decca records transformed their image with velvet shirts and fancy frocks and when the band broke up they were elegantly dressed but not very rich. She became extremely popular in Norway and has now returned to try her hand at the home market with a new album on Polydor out soon. 80 08 28

1980 10 10

The Specials will remember their visit to the Supertent on Cambridge's Midsummer Common. They had to contend with the vast acoustics imbalances of a grotesquely inappropriate circus arena, the mindless inanities of their so-called followers and the inevitable trouble. The music was terrific but the tension for too pronounced. Lead singer Terry Hall tried to defuse the atmosphere but finally led the band off stage in mid-number to escape the volleys of beer cans and spit. 80 10 10b

1980 10 17

Emilie Lewis established the Mackenzie School of Music and Dramatic Art in Cambridge in 1923 and many students benefited from her training, winning prizes at local festivals. From it developed the Mackenzie Society with weekly concerts to give young students experience of performing to a live audience. Both organisations continue to flourish in the hands of her former students. Now a subscription had been started for a cup to be awarded at the Cambridge Festival reflecting the high standard Emilie herself set in her professional life. 80 10 17

1981 03 24

When the Corn Exchange re-opened earlier this year after a new roof had been fitted at a cost of £200,000 it was thought that the only major rock venue in Cambridge had been restored to the city's youngsters and an impressive line-up of bands were booked to appear. But just four concerts later the clamour of protest about noise has outmatched the decibels of the bands and put the whole future of the hall in doubt. Now the council may have to install soundproofing. 81 03 24

1981 03 25

Crofters celebrate 16<sup>th</sup> birthday [10.6]

1981 03 30

Six hundred young people took to the streets to demonstrate against the threat to live music in Cambridge. They marched from the Great Northern Pub in Station Road to the Corn Exchange – the two rock venues at the centre of a row over noise levels. The landlord of the pub has been in dispute with the city's environmental health department over the noise made by band playing there and the Corn Exchange also faces legal action if they do not act on the noise problem. 81 03 30

1981 04 24

More than 50 young people belonging to the 'Keep Cambridge Live' campaign, which wants to retain live music, crowded the public gallery of the Guildhall when they thought a plan to convert the Corn Exchange into a music complex was to be discussed. But it is due to be debated in July. After half an hour – during which time paper aeroplanes drifted down among councillors - they left shouting, "How



can you sit there and listen to all this boring stuff". The mayor said: "I think we handled that very well". 81 04 24d

1981 08 03

Cambridge Folk Festival 81 08 03a

1981 10 28

The Taboo disco club, one of Cambridge's longest-running nightspots, is to close. It was originally the Kashmir restaurant, started up in the mid-1960s; it then became the Harlequin Club and eventually the Taboo. Now the owners, Downing College have won a High Court judgement to regain the building so they can go ahead with the redevelopment of the area. 81 10 28

1981 10 29

The Shadows returned to Cambridge after too long an absence – 15 years or more – to find that their audience had multiplied. There is no nonsense about Hank Marvin, Bruce Welch, Alan Jones, Brian Bennett and Cliff Hall and they played nearly 30 numbers including 'Apache', their first hit, 'Wonderful Land' and 'Frightened City' as well as Chuck Berry and Sam Cooke numbers to prolonged applause. 81 10 29

1981 12 04

The Oak in Lensfield Road had a world-wide reputation as a centre for good Irish music. Before modernisation it was a wonderful place. Playing sessions would start up automatically on Friday nights, Saturday lunchtimes and Sundays too. But now venues for Irish music are fast disappearing in Cambridge. The demise of the Ancient Druids was another blow and the Cow and Calf on Pound Hill is virtually the only one remaining. 81 12 04b

1982 01 20

Ten local bands will appear at the Graduate Centre in a presentation of the history of Cambridge rock music. They are Telephone Bill and the Smooth Operators, Milestones, Duke Duke and the Dukes, The Lonely, Weak at the Knees, High and Lonesome, Nick Nick and the Nickettes, Floating Unit, Drink 'N' Jive Band and The Light Blues Band. Sindy and the Action Men will promote their debut single on a new label, Wimp Records, based in Kingston. 82 01 20a

1982 02 03

Andy Gray decided 13 years ago to move his collection of 500 second-hand singles from Bury market to serve the more discerning musical tastes of Cambridge. He can still be found in the market square today, though now he has eight shops in the region. He puts his success down to undercutting the traditional record retailers as well as offering the obscure stuff you just couldn't buy elsewhere. Rather like John Peel he has kept abreast of changes, opening 'The Beat Goes On' to cater for new trends. 82 02 03b

1982 05 04

Cambridge has nurtured many stars of the pop world. Pink Floyd, Yes, 10 cc, Roxy Music, Foreigner, Procol Harum, Small Faces, Quiver, Elvis Costello's Attractions, The Clash, The Foundations ... all have had links with Cambridge bands. Now Graeme Mackenzie has published a family tree of rock groups since 1964. It has proved unbelievably complicated due to the musicians appalling memory for names and dates. 82 05 04 & a

1982 06 01

England football manager Ron Greenwood and 13 of his World Cup squad were at the Abbey Stadium to watch the London Symphony Orchestra's first outdoor performance of Classic Rock in England. They were joined by more than 3,500 fans for rock music's version of the Last Night of the Proms with people clapping and cheering through the last few numbers. Tony Butcher, the new rock of England's defence, said "Tremendous – we heard the Rolling Stones last week and this was a

contrast". The United Manager John Docherty said the event was "unbelievably successful" and had broken even. 82 06 01a

1982 06 03

The Great Northern Hotel on the corner of Station Road had a wide reputation as a 'jazz pub. In the 1970s it was converted into a hostel for Technical College students with rooms directly above the stage and Raffles nightclub in the basement. Despite music on two levels there were no complaints until a new landlord introduced rock bands. Now its licence has been withdrawn and Cambridge has lost one of its last live music venues. 82 06 03

1982 08 06

Cambridge now houses an extraordinary number of musical instrument makers. In addition to Mark Stevenson and Trevor Beckerleg, makers of harpsichords, and William Johnson, maker of chamber organs, there are many lesser-known names. Charles Hall is another organ builder, Daniel Bingham specialises in clarinets while John Isaacs and Ian Harwood from Ely are making lutes based on original designs from Bologna and Venice. 82 08 06a

1982 09 17

Concert Hall 5,000 planned Barnwell Road approved by Whitehall 1982

1982 10 10

A new compilation album, "Honey for Tea", features 12 bands with Cambridge connections – The Rapiers, Hondo, Sindy and the Action Men, Su Lyn Band, The Amyl Dukes, The Lonely, The Great Divide, Your Dinner, Pure Thought, The Agents, Seven Fifty-Four and the Innocent Bystanders. But there are notable absentees, particularly Shakatak. It is one to buy for your old age – a means of going down memory lane once you're too old to see them live. 'Cos that's where they are best 82 10 10

1982 10 28

Beaconsfield club ordered close due loud music & rowdiness, 100 year old [38.11.7]

1982 11 24

The Riverside Jazz Band celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Carioca Club in Newmarket Road. It began as a University outfit set up by undergraduates, one of whom was later sent down as he spent so much time playing his trombone. The only local lad was Ted Vousden, now the sole remaining founder member. At first they played at the Criterion pub in Market Passage, then were regulars at the YWMCA in Alexandra Street. Over the years there have been dozens of members and all kinds of different line-ups, but the name has never changed. 82 11 24a

1983 05 09

Cambridge Co-operative Band have recorded a powerful piece composed specially for them. The music by Dr Arthur Wills, the organist of Ely cathedral, is the four movement 'Fenland Suite' – the first for brass band and solo organ 83 05 09 p10

1983 07 07

Cambridge pianist Doris Waterson began her career playing for silent films at the old Playhouse in Mill Road. She played ballet and modern dance music for the Perse Girls and the old County Schools but was best known as pianist with Josephine's Gypsy Orchestra. It was formed about 1934 and played for 26 years at venues such as Christ's Pieces bandstand. Doris also had her own band called the Keynotes and worked during the war with Alice Reynolds who organised concert parties for troops 83 07 07 p16

1983 09 26

The Carioca Club in Newmarket Road is today a burnt-out shell after fire was started in three different parts of the building. The entire contents were destroyed and walls and floors wrecked. Police say an 'inflammable liquid' was poured over materials in the building to start the blaze. 'Racks' night club

which has 450 members is now looking for a temporary venue. The Carioca was originally a chapel and was used as a furniture depot before it became a night-club in 1978 83 09 26 p1

1983 09 27

The arson attack on the Carioca Club has removed a bright nightspot from the already bleak picture of Cambridge entertainment. It leaves Ronelles, the up-market disco restaurant in the city centre, Route 66 and the Last Resort. Complaints about noise spelt the end of Silks in Hills Road. The city council is thinking of building a special factory-type unit on the old cattle market industrial site off Cherry Hinton Road to house an 'alternative venue centre' 83 09 27 p13

1984 05 24

Cambridge Baroque Camerata established [10.4]

1984 07 07

"No one is buying hand-made harpsichords today", says Trevor Beckerleg, the Cambridge harpsichord maker, so he is selling his Gwydir Street home. The house has many odd features, not least the downstairs walls and ceilings which are smothered with graffiti in green ink: it is his notebook, representing his thoughts over the past couple of years. It contains his last two instruments including the world's only submarine pintable harpsichord with a keyboard at either end 84 07 07

1984 07 12

More than 20 members of the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra have been fired following a decision to make it eligible for funding from the Arts Council which insists that all musicians should be wholly professional. But some see it as unfair: they have all helped establish the orchestra and although they did not earn the majority of their earnings from live performances, they all played to a professional standard 84 07 12 [10.3]

1984 11 09

Cambridge discos are awful: Ronelles is all right for up to 18s but you feel out of it when you're in your 20's. And it's not just the youngsters who are complaining: their mums and grannies have their own gripes. They miss the dance halls from the Rex and Embassy, which enjoyed their heyday during the Rock and Roll boom to, the more sedate Dorothy. The Corn Exchange, formerly home of all kinds of entertainment, closed two years ago and the Kelsey Kerridge Sports hall is not ideal for stage events. So people turn to the nightclubs at Peterborough. 84 11 09 p27

1984 11 24

Cambridge's Savoy Jazzmen, who are celebrating 25 years of rip-roaring music, have announced they are to quit. The group's leader and only remaining original member, Barry Palser, has promised they will get together for special gigs. The Jazzmen have performed throughout Europe and have a single due for release in Germany. They got together to play for their own enjoyment in 1959 but were then invited to play for parties. They have become part of Cambridge music heritage, playing in parades, jazz clubs and Festivals. Barry remembers when Kenny Ball and Acker Bilk called into the Rose pub in Rose Crescent and joined in a couple of sessions. 84 11 22b [10.8]

1985 01 23

1<sup>st</sup> Cambridge Rock competition [11.13]

1985 06 04

Katrina & Waves 'Walking on sunshine', 1<sup>st</sup> top-10 hit by Cambridge based band [11.14]

1985 12 10

Council chiefs are setting up an 'action squad' to in a bid to defuse mounting mob tension on the streets of Cambridge following a violent clash outside the former Thakes cycle shop on East Road. At a noisy meeting in the Guildhall more than 100 youngsters spelled out a simple desperate plea – give us somewhere to meet. Now the councillors will try to find a disused warehouse for them to convert

into a late-night venue or set up an 'open house' building which they could use during the day. The unemployed workers' centre could also be put to more intensive use. 85 12 10a

1985 12 10

More than 200 young people entered the Rob Roy pub in Chesterton Road to hold a late-night disco. Sixty-five police prevented any more entering as toilet rolls, a chair and other pieces of furniture rained down. As there were no lights on, except for the disco light and with a crowd in excess of 200 police decided it would be unsafe to enter and clear the building. The pub had not been derelict but undergoing refurbishment and considerable damage was done to the upstairs room. It followed confrontation with several hundred youths outside the former Thakes cycle shop in East Road 85 12 10b

1986

Cambridge Symphony Orchestra cash crisis, Prince Edward becomes patron

1986 01 06

The great Cambridge Rock Group Competition has attracted 42 bands. They include Pressure Drop who specialise in blues and jazz, Grass Asylum and Double Yellow Line who describe their music as pop, The Beeno who simply 'rock' and Tyrade a heavy rock outfit. Wild Party Productions whose musical styles embrace both rock and pop will also perform as well as the Harvest Wood Quintet who are into contemporary rock music. President Regan Is Clever and Sardines in Red Striped Dresses will also take part. 86 01 06

1986 03 03

The Cambridge Rock Group Competition has seen 41 bands battling it out for the prestigious pop title. The BBC's "Whistle Test" duo, Andy Kershaw and Trevor Dann joined the six regular judges for the final which included Colonel Gomez, Therapy, Strange Brew and Children of Some Tradition. The top two places were contested by Double Yellow Line, playing pure Wham and Duran Duran style pop and President Regan is Clever, a student group in the mould of Cambridge's own Perfect Vision who eventually took the title 86 03 03b

1986 03 08

Young people in Cambridge have come up with a revolutionary idea for a new late night rock music venue in the middle of the busy roundabout in Elizabeth Way. It is centrally situated and its underground location would cut down disturbance. But it would be expensive and there would be problems of access for emergency vehicles. Councillors think the former Cattle Market on Clifton industrial estate is a better option. If the venture failed the site could be converted back to industrial use with a smaller financial loss. But they have asked officials to make a feasibility study of both sites 86 03 08

1986 04 24

Michael Copley and Dag Ingram were undergraduates at Churchill College in the '70s. One had a recorder and the other borrowed £5 to buy an accordion and they started playing on Saturday morning in Lion Yard. One day they received a knock on the door from a policeman. He wanted to book them for a policeman's ball at Huntingdon. The Cambridge Buskers were on their way to stardom. They toured Germany and did a recording with Deutsche Grammophon which made them pop stars. Now they have been invited back to Cambridge to play at the University Music Club 86 04 24c

1986 08 26

Pop concert flops due Bank Holiday gales [11.15]

1986 10 09

Stan Kelly was one of the last people to live in the Oyster House, Garlic Row where his parties were a mixture of the talented and the well-heeled. He was a Liverpool working-class boy who came to the university in the early '50s with his wife and children. In those days he was involved in folk music,

mixing Liverpool seamen's songs with those of the American Depression and some of his own. One was 'Hard times in the Old Oyster House, Hard times, poor boy'. Later his skiffle music became successful on both sides of the Atlantic. Despite this he managed to secure a double first in maths and obtained a job with a world-famous computer firm. 86 10 09

1986 11 24

Cambridge Philharmonic Society centenary – history – 86 11 24

1986 11 26

The Corn Exchange, Cambridge's new entertainment and conference complex, has opened after years of political wrangling. The four wall shell used for pop concerts, roller skating and badminton has been developed into an auditorium with versatile seating together with a tiered balcony and mezzanine terrace that can be used for a variety of purposes. At the back are changing rooms, dressing rooms and workshops while the King Room upstairs will be available for private functions 86 11 26d & e 86 12 01d

1986 12 11

Live music venue ('The Junction') Clifton Industrial estate approved [38.11.14]

1987 02

Corn Exchange Concert Hall opens [see summary at end of this section] [6]

1987 02 12

Talent spotters auditioned acts for a spot on Tom O'Connor's BBC Road Show at the Corn Exchange. Plucky Albert O'Dell, 80, is seeking for fame late in life. Cheered on by his wife he sped through imitations of animal and bird calls. Crooner David Bensley of Cambridge, a Frank Sinatra fan, put on an excellent show despite his tape machine playing the backing music too slowly. John Barry of Littleport who owns two TV shops might be on screen if his country music wins over the judges while Cambridge comedy jazz trio Froggits could be a strong contender: they are about to release an LP 87 02 12a

1987 02 13

If you are old enough to remember enthusiastic musicians who took to the stage with washboards, banjos and not much money, you will recall a star of yesteryear. Lonnie Donegan will appear at the Corn Exchange alongside Cambridge singer-songwriter Steve Somers who is a member of the famous skiffler's new eight-man band. The 'Father of Skiffle' has teamed up with jazz veteran Monty Sunshine to form Donegan's Dancing Sunshine Band and will make one of his first comeback concerts just two years after his last appearance at Newmarket Cabaret Club 87 02 13a

1987 02 26

Veteran rocker Lonnie Donegan danced the night away at Cambridge Corn Exchange – but didn't manage to sell out the hall. Only 500 fans turned up. The problem was that the Hollies were on the following night. Then huge traffic jams built up with a 150-yard queue. The Manchester 60s super group stepped on to the revamped stage and into the hearts of a once-swinging generation of pop fans playing 'Just One Look', 'Carrie Ann' 'Bus Stop' and a host of other hits 87 02 26

1987 04 06

Veteran rocker Jerry Lee Lewis gave a high voltage performance at the Corn Exchange. The audience ranged from the Mayor, John Woodhouse, to the secretary of Cambridge Elvis Presley Fan Club. Quiffs and DAs sprouted from male heads while the girls sported pony tails, satin or chiffon ribbons and bright lipstick. Teds wore their distinctive plumage of drape jackets and drainpipe trousers. All united in a huge roar as a short figure strolled on to the stage and the opening bars of 'Roll Over Beethoven' powered round the hall. 87 04 06

1987 04 24

Cambridge's cult band, Harvey and the Wallbangers, are making one last date in the city before bowing out of the business. The good-time/rock harmony/doo-wop swingers are splitting up. The Wallbanger's cocktail of music and comedy made them one of the best-loved bands of their kinds. But founder and supreme Harvey Brough says they are getting tired of constant touring; they want to write and record. Guitarist Johnny Griffiths is becoming a maths teacher but the rest are sitting back and waiting for whatever comes next 87 04 24

1987 10 21

Classical music concerts could be curtailed at Cambridge Corn Exchange in a bid to cut losses. But 'popular' acts such as comedians Phil Cool & Victoria Wood and big-time rock groups like Motorhead and David Essex have proved a massive success. In just nine months the Corn Exchange has been established as an important venue with plenty of sell-outs and successes. This has led to agents asking if their acts can play there. David Essex, Courtney Pine, The Shadows and the Drifters are amongst those whose managements have approached them. 87 10 21

1987 11 14

Corn Exchange set to lose £140,000 in full year; Folk Festival & Cambridge Festival are £30,000 down ¢CEN 14.11.87

1987 11 10

Shadows at Corn Exchange – 87 11 10

1988 01 22

The Cambridge Rock Group Competition saw 1,000 fans jammed into the Corn Exchange to support the seven bands battling out for places in the semi-final. The gentle jazz-rock group, Curious, featured the magnificent vocals of Hilary Bailey and her 10-string Chapman stick bass which gave them a clean sound, Bogus Renegades were impressive for their years but Turn to Blue's squeaky clean pop was not fashionable in this competition. In the end it was the dynamic Nutmeg and Indiscretion who took the honours. 88 01 22a

1988 12 03

British premier Bernstein opera postponed as ticket sales flop; held, Bernstein attended ¢CEN 3.12.88, 5.12.88

1989 06 14

Cinderellas Rockerfellas –formerly Ronelles - Cambridge's top night spot, reopens with a new look. Top disc jockey Bruno Brookes will make an appearance along with Hot Flesh and their fire dance spectacular, Marc Oberon the illusionist and robots Adam and Eve. The evening begins with a jazz band playing outside the club in the Heidelberg Gardens in Lion Yard. The club now sports a more upmarket image and incorporates Waldo T. Pepper's restaurant 89 06 14

1989 06 21

Gt St Mary's all girl choir believed first of kind in diocese ¢CEN 21.6.89

1989 11 24

Corn Exchange losing money ¢CEN 24.11.89

1990 02 15

The Junction, Cambridge's long-awaited new venue centre got off to a flying start. DJ John Peel cut his way through yards of studio tape wrapped all the way round the hexagonal building in Clifton Road. Riots four years ago highlighted the lack of facilities for younger people. The Junction – with its 400 seater auditorium, exhibition space, café-car and rehearsal rooms – was the city council's response. It is Britain's first purpose-built music and arts centre for young people. 90 02 14b, c. Laser-light show – 90 02 15e

1990 02 21

Rock fever hit Cambridge city centre when hundreds of heavy metal fans packed into HMV's Market Street store to meet their idols, the Quireboys. The chart-topping band were signing copies of their debut album 'A Bit of What you Fancy'. Hayley Breet from Haverhill queued to see lead singer Spike, "He's the best – the others don't really get a look in", she said. Later The Quireboys played to 1,500 fans at a sell-out gig in the Corn Exchange 90 02 21a

1990 07 12

Andy's Records closed stall on Market after more than 20 years; Andy Gray now owns 14 shops from Grimsby to Colchester, started selling second-hand records in 1969 – 90 04 23a , 24a

1990 07 12

Cambridge Festival set up by volunteers in 1961, Mary-Rose Clark recalls hard times – 90 07 12a

### **Concert Hall**

1899 01 17

A very pleasant evening may be spent at the Red Cow Inn Concert Hall, Cambridge. The best of local talent is requisitioned and the concert hall promises to have a run of uninterrupted success, judging by the support which has already been given to the new venture. Its American bowling saloon is now also open

1899 04 02 c

The Red Cow Inn concert hall, Guildhall Street, Cambridge. Special engagement for six nights of Miss Sadie St John, comedienne and dancer; Miss Gracie White, serio and dancer and Mr G. Kent, comedian and mimic. American bowling saloon now open. – Advert

1904 03 28

Red Cow Concert Hall

1954 04 21

During the early years of the war when the Government was encouraging people to spend their holidays at home the Cambridge Entertainments Committee organised August Bank Holiday athletic sports meeting, swimming sports, baby shows and other attractions. They obtained permission to open the Corn Exchange as a canteen for troops stationed in the area; later alterations were made, music and games provided and it became a social centre for thousands of Servicemen and women, a very useful contribution in the dark days of war. It could still, in the hands of an imaginative architect, become the much-needed concert hall Cambridge needed

1959 11 19

The University thinks the Lion Yard scheme was bad planning. They are not opposed to a pedestrian precinct nor to some commercial development but preferred a mixture of University use with a concert hall seating 1,500 and some shops and offices to fill in. This would attract far less traffic at peak times. Others thought the Corn Exchange might make a site for a car park with an elevator to take cars to the upper floors. Shops could give 'Free parking vouchers' for customers who spent more than £5. This would attract shoppers into the car parks and make them economical. 59 11 19 a & c 1961 01 02

A questionnaire shows that most people think the Lion Yard area should include a concert hall, civic restaurant, hotel and assize court together with a library. This should feature a record section, an art lending department, reading room and small exhibition area. There should be a municipal crèche where children could be left while their parents shopped and a car park reserved for those who worked in the Guildhall. Half of the respondents were in favour of traffic wardens and parking meters, though some said they had no experience of them, while 81 per cent wanted a pedestrian precinct. Other

suggestions included a news cinema where people could wait in comfort for evening buses and supermarkets near the edge of the city 61 01 02a

1967 11 24

Arts facilities have been neglected, is no good concert hall, might be centre of a new Lion Yard development - 67 11 24, a

1967 10 13

Concert Hall plan at Queen Anne Terrace rejected, multi-terrace car park and sports hall instead – 67 10 13

1969 05 13

Knock Corn Exchange down, site worth £250,000 69 05 13

1969 04 03

May be Civic Restaurant 69 04 02

1971 04 24

Corn Exchange may be converted to concert hall – 71 04 24a

1971 04 28

Concert Hall cost £80,000 71 04 28

1971 05 26

Seven years ago Corn Exchange market was little used. Became used as roller-skating rink, badminton, exhibitions, boxing. Two years ago Arts and Entertainment Committee commissioned a facelift 71 05 26

1972 11 17

Plans for the conversion of Cambridge's Corn Exchange to a 1,500-seat concert hall costing £936,200 will be considered at the inaugural meeting of the Concert Hall Action group. Before the meeting will be a feasibility study drawn up by Arup Associates, the London consultants who were responsible for the Maltings concert hall at Snape. One of the partners said "not only Cambridge, but Britain as a whole, will gain a concert hall of potentially international stature". The study recommends an extension to the Corn Exchange involving the closure of Parsons Court and the acquisition of other properties on its west side

1974 10 05

A £2 million plan for converting the old Cambridge corn exchange into a multi-purpose concert hall was accepted by the City Amenities Committee. An early warning of stormy times ahead was given by Coun. Peter Cowell who said: "There is bound to be a lot of opposition". In their report the architects claim that "not only Cambridge but England as a whole will gain a concert hall of potentially international stature which could attract the finest musical talent". They suggest the reshaped building could hold up to 1500 people and would also be ideal for events such as boxing, wrestling, operas, plays, exhibitions and conferences.

1974 11 01

The Mayor of Cambridge, Councillor Jack Warren, was today considering diplomatic ways of asking some of the oil rich Arab sheikhs of the Middle East to help finance the £2 million conversion of the Corn Exchange into a public hall. Last night the city council gave him six months to raise the money needed.

1975 10 23

Drop hunt for benefactors, now stop-gap repairs 75 10 23



1977 01 26

The international entertainment organisation, Mecca, has invited Cambridge City Council to talk about possible future uses for the Corn Exchange, one of the city's main entertainment centres. Five years ago Mecca turned down a request, saying Cambridge was too small to support a large-scale complex. Four years ago the Council expressed interest in a massive facelift operation, but could not afford the then £1.5m for the work and was unable to find a private backer. Coun. Garner said: "It is often criticised as a white elephant, but it is surprising just how many functions are held there. We would not want to lose this amenity"

1977 08 03

Cambridge's £3 million concert and conference hall that never was began with a £2 million promise to pay for the conversion of the Corn Exchange. But that promise, made in 1974 was short-lived. Mr David Robinson decided that the Corn Exchange was ugly and should be pulled down. Instead he favoured a purpose-built concert and conference hall on the Downing Street end of the Lion Yard complex. The man at the centre of those protracted negotiations was Coun Jack Warren who told him it was a listed building and could not be pulled down but he pooh-poohed this. In October 1976 Mr Robinson wrote to say it would be impossible for him to provide the money, and then gave another £7 to Robinson College.

1979 06 12

Plans to demolish the old Cambridge electricity generating station and build homes and a walkway on its prime riverside site have been submitted by St John's College. It generated electricity for more than 70 years but in 1968 the Central Electricity Generating Board decided not to renew their lease. An earlier proposal to turn the building into a concert hall came to nothing and now the station and an adjoining Dutch house are derelict. The 31 residential units proposed would provide small flats and family accommodation and not be confined to members of the college.

1980 01 18

Cambridge Corn Exchange could be converted into a £1.5 million concert hall and entertainment centre after councillors voted to seek specialist advice. The Common Market is to be asked for a grant and the Arts Council will be approached for help. Some of the money the council hopes to raise from the sale of surplus land and profits from the Lottery may also go towards it. There were several voices of dissent but Coun Maurice Garner said: "It is not an elaborate and grandiose scheme. The Corn Exchange is hardly fit for use today and we must take action

1981 01

Opened with new roof [6.2]

1981 02 14

£2.6m plan 81 02 14

1981 03 24

When the Corn Exchange re-opened earlier this year after a new roof had been fitted at a cost of £200,000 it was thought that the only major rock venue in Cambridge had been restored to the city's youngsters and an impressive line-up of bands were booked to appear. But just four concerts later the clamour of protest about noise has outmatched the decibels of the bands and put the whole future of the hall in doubt. Now the council may have to install soundproofing. 81 03 24

1981 04 24

Pop fans demonstrate at City Council meeting re live music 81 04 24

1981 07 08

Decision delayed 81 07 08

1981 07 30

May be shelved 81 07 30

1981 08 14

£3.5m plan 81 08 14

1981 10 09

£750,000 improvement approved 81 10 09

1982 12

£4m scheme 82 12

1983 05 12

Some of the country's top entertainers, including comedian Max Boyce and Jasper Carrott, have snubbed Cambridge's Kelsey Kerridge Sports Hall as a concert hall, saying the facilities aren't good enough. A few years ago it attracted top names such as Tony Bennett, Bill Haley and The Supremes. It's not just the artists – audiences are reluctant to pay £8 to sit on a plastic seat. 83 05 12 p3

1983 11 01

£1m second stage approved 83 11 01

1984 03 30

Arts Council give £250,000 84 03 30

1987 01 02

German company gives £80,000 87 01 02

1985 09 04

F.B.C. grant 85 09 04

1985 09 27

£2m contract for complete conversion 86 07 27

1986 01 21

£3.5m total 86 01 21

1986 04 27

New £5m Concert Hall / Conference Centre 86 04 27

1986 09 25

£4m revamp 86 09 25

1986 11 25

£3.5m revamp 86 11 25

1986 11 26

The Corn Exchange, Cambridge's new entertainment and conference complex, has opened after years of political wrangling. The four wall shell used for pop concerts, roller skating and badminton has been developed into an auditorium with stage and versatile seating together with a tiered balcony and mezzanine terrace that can be used for a variety of purposes. At the back are changing rooms, dressing rooms and workshops while the King Room upstairs will be available for private functions 86 11 26d & e

1986 12 01

Corn Exchange opened for first time – 86 12 01d

1987 02

Opening [6.19]

1990 01 31

Corn Exchange cultural centre – feature – 90 01 31a & b